



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CORDELL HULL BLDG.
425 5TH AVENUE NORTH
NASHVILLE TENNESSEE 37243

PHIL BREDESEN
GOVERNOR

SUSAN R. COOPER, MSN, RN
COMMISSIONER

December 14, 2010

The Honorable Mike Morrow, Commissioner
Department of Finance and Administration
State Capital
Nashville, TN 37243

and

The Honorable Justin P. Wilson
Comptroller of the Treasury
State Capital
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Tennessee Financial Integrity Act

Dear Sirs:

This letter is written to you to address the internal control requirements of the Tennessee Financial Integrity Act as amended in 1998.

The objectives of the internal accounting and administrative controls of the Department of health are to provide reasonable assurance that:

- Obligations and costs are in compliance with applicable law;
- Funds, property and other assets are safeguarded against waste. Loss, unauthorized use, or misappropriation; and
- Revenues and expenditures applicable to agency operations are properly recorded and accounted for to permit the preparation of accurate and reliable financial and statistical reports and to maintain accountability over assets.

Our Mission - To promote, protect, and improve the health of persons living in, working in, or visiting the State of Tennessee!

Mike Morrow, Commissioner, Finance and Administration
Justin P. Wilson, Comptroller of the Treasury
December 14, 2010
Page 2

The Concept of reasonable assurance recognized that the costs of internal control should not exceed the benefits derived from those controls. In the Course of any review, estimates and judgments are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of control policies and procedures. Errors or fraud may occur and not be detected due to inherent limitations in any system of internal accounting and administrative control, including those limitations resulting from resource constraints, legislative restrictions, and other factors. Sound internal control is essential to achieving an entity's performance objectives, safeguarding resources, and providing reliable financial reports. But internal controls cannot ensure these goals will always be met.

As head of this agency, I acknowledge responsibility for maintaining the internal control system of this department. The department's internal controls in effect for fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, adequately safeguard assets, and when taken as a whole provide reasonable assurance of the proper recording of financial transactions, compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and the achievement of operational objectives, subject to the limitations described in the previous paragraph.

There are currently no unresolved problems that have not been identified.

In addition, staff of this Department has, throughout the year, conveyed to the Department of Finance and Administration any additional significant weaknesses to the operations or weaknesses in the financial controls and they have been identified.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan R. Cooper MSN, RN". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Susan R. Cooper, MSN, RN
Commissioner

Attachments