



Presentation to the Transition Legislative Oversight Committee

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Senate Bill 1021 (85R, 2017) Requirements

- Recommend whether to continue the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) as a separate state agency from the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
- Conduct an assessment of any known or potential conflicts of interests concerning HHSC's regulatory activities and mitigation approaches
- Conduct an assessment of the quality and consistency of data sharing, communication, and coordination between the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and HHSC
- Conduct an assessment of HHSC's progress in transferring and consolidating HHS system administrative support services
- Recommend whether to abolish, consolidate, or re-establish HHS system advisory committees in rule



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Key Findings and Recommendations - DSHS

- Consolidation has strengthened DSHS' focus on public health
- HHS system needs time to mature and adjust to its new organizational structure
- DSHS and HHSC share a common mission and many interdependencies exist
- Significant work is needed to improve the delivery of administrative services, improve communication and coordination, and clarify roles and responsibilities
- **Recommendations:**
 - Maintain current organizational structure and continue DSHS as an HHS system agency
 - Form a Joint Operations Coordination Committee



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Key Findings and Recommendations - DFPS

- In some areas, DFPS and HHSC are effectively communicating and collaborating
- There is significant room for improvement in data sharing, coordination, and communication
- Focus is needed on how to effectively provide administrative services in the context of our new contract-for-services relationship
- **Recommendations:**
 - Form a Joint Operations Coordination Committee
 - Maintain the House Bill 5 Executive Steering Committee on an as-needed basis



Key Findings and Recommendations - Potential Conflict of Interest

- Overseeing Regulatory Services and operating state hospitals and state supported living centers within the same agency may create a perceived conflict of interest
- HHSC has taken several steps to mitigate potential conflicts of interest, including:
 - Created a structural separation
 - Established a firewall policy
 - Use of disclosure forms
 - Outsourced Independent Dispute Resolution (IDR)
- **Recommendations:**
 - Transfer Consumer Rights - Intellectual Disability (CRID) unit from Regulatory Services to the HHSC Office of the Ombudsman
 - Develop a uniform Regulatory impartiality policy



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Key Findings and Recommendations - Advisory Committees

- Extensive work was completed in 2015-16 biennium to eliminate unnecessary or duplicative advisory committees
- Ongoing efforts to improve functions of advisory committees
- **Recommendations:**
 - Merge two advisory committees (Aging Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee and the Texas Respite Advisory Committee) and allow one to expire (Peer Support Stakeholder Workgroup)
 - Conduct an in-depth evaluation to determine how to align the advisory committee structure with the current organizational structure of the agency



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Next Steps

- DFPS and DSHS Joint Operations Coordination Committees have held initial meetings to identify and prioritize key issues
- A transition team has been formed to develop a plan to move CRID to the Ombudsman
- The Regulatory Services Division is currently creating uniform disclosure policy
- Support Services Agreements (SSAs) are being reevaluated
- Cross-Division Coordination groups are being revamped