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
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
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
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
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