

STATE OF COLORADO

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Executive Director's Office
2862 South Circle Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80906-4195
Phone: (719) 579-9580
Fax: (719) 226-4755
Web: www.doc.state.co.us



Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Aristedes W. Zavaras
Executive Director

May 21, 2007

The Honorable Stephanie Takis
Legislative Audit Committee
200 East 14th Ave.
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Private Prison Procurement Performance Audit
Six Month Review and Implementation Status

Dear Senator Takis:

The Department agreed with the three audit findings identified by the State Auditor's office as a result of the performance audit conducted on the Private Prison Procurement Process.

I am pleased to highlight the Department's commitment to the audit process and the implementation of the Audit Recommendations.

Recommendation 1: Investigate the activities of the former senior-level employee regarding compliance with ethical and legal requirements related to his employment with the State and the appropriateness of the leave benefits used prior to his retirement, seek reimbursement from the former employee for all misused paid leave, and refer the case to the local district attorney, as appropriate.

The Department agreed with this Recommendation and committed to an implementation date of December 2006.

Status: Fully Implemented.

By statute, the Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) is empowered to conduct criminal and professional standards investigations. The OIG immediately initiated the investigation into the activities of the former senior-level employee. At my request, the case was transferred to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in January 2007. CBI continues its investigation and will report to the appropriate parties at the conclusion of their investigation.

Recommendation 2: Require all employees to annually provide signed certificates attesting that they have read, understand, and will abide by the Governor's executive order on code of ethics, and revise the Department's training policy to require all management staff to receive refresher training on the State's codes of ethics and conduct at least every two years.

The Department agreed with this Recommendation and committed to an implementation date of January 2007.

Status: Fully Implemented

To provide efficiencies and better tracking of the employee signed certificates, the Department developed and implemented an electronic ethics certificate with signature through our Departmental web-based program, DOCNET. This allows for clear documentation for all employees and avoids any instances of mishandled paperwork. All employees have logged onto our system and signed the ethics certification. The Department now requires an updated electronic signature each calendar year. Reminder notices will be published annually, and we will electronically track employees for re-certification. At the time of the audit findings, the Department immediately implemented a policy to ensure all management staff receive refresher training on the State's code of ethics and conduct bi-annually.

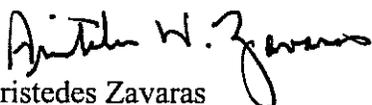
Recommendation 3: Continue working with the Governor's Office and the General Assembly to identify short- and long- term solutions to addressing the shortage of prison beds for Colorado inmates.

The Department agreed with this Recommendation and committed to an implementation date which is ongoing.

Status: During this past legislative session, the Department testified before the General Assembly on three separate occasions concerning the Department's present and future beds needs; before the Joint Budget Committee and the Joint Judiciary Committees in January 2007 and before the Capital Development Committee in February 2007. The bed-planning process is an on-going process internally, and the Department continues to work with the Governor's Office and the General Assembly on this important issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this update to the Private Prison Procurement Performance Audit. If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Aristedes Zavaras
Executive Director

cc: Gary Golder, Director of Prisons