



OFFICE OF THE
UTAH STATE AUDITOR

News Release
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Office of the Utah State Auditor Releases
Review of Southwest Utah Public Health Department
Internal Control and Compliance Processes

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

The Office of the Utah State Auditor (Office) today released its Review of the Southwest Utah Public Health Department (Department). The Office reviewed the Department's compliance with State requirements pertaining to the Utah Public Finance Website (known as the Utah Transparency Website) and also reviewed the Southwest Utah Public Health Foundation (Foundation) and transfers from the Department to the Foundation.

The Department is organized as an interlocal entity and is a component unit of Washington County. It serves as the local health department for Beaver, Kane, Washington, Iron, and Garfield counties. The Department has an annual budget of more than \$5 million.

Upon review of key procedures, the Office identified four findings and issued recommendations to improve compliance of the Department.

1. Failure to provide financial information to the Utah Public Finance Website despite repeated audit findings.
2. Lack of appropriate oversight of the related Foundation.
3. Funds transferred from the Department to the Foundation in order to circumvent legal requirements.
4. The Department received donated funds on behalf of a nonaffiliated organization, Washington County Search and Rescue.

State Auditor, John Dougall said, "I am concerned that previous board members and Department management ignored the law requiring financial disclosure to the finance transparency website, even after being informed of this obligation. Taxpayers expect financial transparency and deserve both elected and appointed officials committed to full compliance with the law. I'm grateful they are coming into compliance."

The full report may be found on the Office's website, auditor.utah.gov, specifically at <https://secure.utah.gov/auditor/osaReports/downloadReport.html?reportId=9821>.

About the Office of the Utah State Auditor

The Office of the Utah State Auditor provides Utah taxpayers and government officials with an independent assessment of financial operation, statutory compliance, and performance management for state and local government.

Specific activities of the Office include performing financial audits, conducting Federal funds compliance audits, providing local government oversight, conducting agency and program performance audits, performing fraud and compliance audits, and operating the State Auditor Hotline for citizens to report suspected financial issues or improprieties. These capabilities strengthen Utah State Government and help taxpayers have confidence in the integrity of Utah's government agencies.

The Utah State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state's citizens every four years. The role of the Utah State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see auditor.utah.gov.

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