



OFFICE OF THE
STATE AUDITOR

News Release

For Immediate Release

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**Office of the State Auditor Releases Limited Review of
Southwest Utah Public Health Department**

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

The Office of the State Auditor (Office) today released its limited review of the Southwest Utah Public Health Department (SWUPHD) covering the period April 2016 through January 2018, unless otherwise noted. This review is a follow up to the Office's March 2016 limited review of the SWUPHD, reporting noncompliance and the misuse of funds, as well as the Office of the Attorney General's criminal investigation. On June 5, 2017, two former employees of SWUPHD were each charged with two second degree felonies for violating the False Claims Act and the Pattern of Unlawful Activity statute. The case is scheduled to go to trial on August 5, 2019.

The Southwest Utah Public Health 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.

The report may be found on the Office's website at auditor.utah.gov and specifically at <https://reporting.auditor.utah.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=0154100000390qzAAA> .

About the Office of the State Auditor

The Office of the 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 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 State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see auditor.utah.gov.

Contact:

Nicole Toomey Davis,
Public Information Officer
Office of the State Auditor
801-678-4835
ndavis@utah.gov