



SEN. CRAIG V. HICKMAN, SENATE CHAIR
REP. ANNE-MARIE MASTRACCIO, HOUSE CHAIR

MEMBERS:

SEN. JILL C. DUSON
SEN. BRADLEE T. FARRIN
SEN. STACEY GUERIN
SEN. JEFF TIMBERLAKE
SEN. MIKE TIPPING
REP. JOHN M. EDER
REP. ADAM LEE
REP. MICHAEL H. LEMELIN
REP. CHAD PERKINS
REP. HOLLY B. STOVER

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY
May 20, 2026

Call to Order

The Chair, Senator Hickman, called the Government Oversight Committee to order at approximately 9:40 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Senators: Senator Hickman, Senator Farrin, Senator Guerin, Senator Timberlake
Absent: Senator Duson, Senator Tipping

Representatives: Representative Mastraccio, Representative Eder,
Representative Lemelin, Representative Perkins, Representative Stover
Absent: Representative Lee

Legislative Staff: Peter Schleck, Director, OPEGA
Jennifer Greiner, OPEGA Administrative Secretary/GOC Clerk

Others: Representative Alicia Collins
Bobbi Johnson, DHHS Director of Office of Child and Family Services
Todd Haber, DHHS Acting Deputy Commissioner of Finance
Jim Lopatosky, DHHS Director of Contract Management

Introduction of Committee Members

The members of the Committee introduced themselves.

New Business

To watch this meeting - the recorded Live Stream can be viewed here: [May 20, 2026 GOC Meeting](#)

Meeting Summary – March 27, 2026

A copy of this Meeting Summary can be found here: [March 27, 2026, GOC Meeting Summary](#)

The Committee accepted and approved this meeting summary.

Request by Representative Alicia Collins and 22 Other Legislators for OPEGA Review of Protection from Abuse in the Maine State Prison System

Sen. Hickman invited Rep. Collins to present her letter to the Committee, also signed by 22 other Legislators, requesting a review of certain safety concerns in the Maine prisons. This letter may be found here: [Letter to GOC from Rep. Collins](#)

Sen. Hickman also noted for the Committee a copy of a Complaint recently filed in Federal Court which may be relevant to the Committee's deliberations. That Complaint may be found here: [Mountain v. Liberty](#)

Rep. Collins greeted the Committee and read her prepared statement into the record. That statement may be found here: [Rep. Collins prepared statement](#)

Rep. Eder asked Rep. Collins if she knew how the Department of Corrections (DOC) defines the term "abuse".

Rep. Collins stated that Title 34-A M.R.S. § 3031(6) only states "Protection against any physical or psychological abuse". Rep. Collins stated that she looked through Title 34-A and found no actual definition of the term abuse. Rep. Collins added that the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) does contain definitions for abuse.

Sen. Hickman asked Rep. Collins if she had contacted the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety on this matter.

Rep. Collins stated she has not reached out to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

Rep. Perkins asked if resident Mountain is still incarcerated or if she has been released.

Rep. Collins stated that to the best of her knowledge, resident Mountain is still incarcerated.

Rep. Perkins asked if resident Mountain is eligible for any early release or community confinement or if this has been denied due to her complaints against resident Balcer.

Rep. Collins stated that to the best of her knowledge, things like early release for resident Mountain have been denied.

Rep. Perkins asked if the 400% increase in substantiated claims in the annual PREA report is DOC wide or just in the facility that resident Mountain is incarcerated.

Rep. Collins stated the 400% increase is just in the Maine Correctional Center (MCC) in Windam, where resident Mountain is incarcerated.

Sen. Timberlake stated that what stands out to him is that resident Mountain was segregated with no privileges, and asked Rep. Collins if she believed this is due to resident Mountain complaining about her cellmate.

Rep. Collins stated she believes resident Mountain's placement in segregation with no privileges is due to her complaints regarding her cellmate. Rep. Collins stated that she met with another resident of MCC, resident Albert, who stated she was asked by a corrections officer to apologize to resident Balcer for not using correct pronouns for resident Balcer, and when she refused to apologize she was sent back to segregation.

Rep. Collins stated when a resident of MCC has a problem with being sexually harassed, those concerns should be heard and investigated. Rep. Collins stated that she, and those who visited the facility with her, did ask for authorization for disclosure to receive specific confidential records from the facility on resident Mountain and resident Albert, however even though both residents signed the authorization for disclosure forms, the facility has not provided any of the documents requested. Rep. Collins stated that within those documents requested would be the grievances filed by both residents. Rep. Collins added that she believes it is easier for the corrections officers to put the residents who filed complaints against resident Balcer in segregation rather than to hear the grievances.

Sen. Timberlake asked Rep. Collins if she had a conversation with anyone from the DOC regarding resident Balcer being in the same cell as another resident and whether a solution to the situation was discussed.

Rep. Collins stated that Rep. Soboleski had a conversation with the DOC regarding this situation, however it is her understanding that the DOC has not provided an answer as to why resident Balcer is housed in the same cell. Rep. Collins also stated that she has read some policies that transgender individuals are not supposed to be housed in their own individual quads.

Sen. Guerin asked if the DOC is saying the incidences reported by resident Mountain are false or are the incidences not considered to be sexual harassment.

Rep. Collins stated that regarding the incidents with resident Mountain and resident Albert, the DOC is not speaking directly about these incidents due to privacy concerns. Rep. Collins added that Rep. Soboleski has filed a FOAA request for this information.

Rep. Eder asked if Rep. Collins knew at what point resident Balcer began to identify as a woman.

Rep. Collins stated she is not aware of when resident Balcer began to identify as a woman, adding that she does not know if that information is relevant to her concerns.

Rep. Lemelin asked if someone has spoken to Commissioner Liberty about this matter.

Rep. Collins stated that she has not had a conversation with Commissioner Liberty regarding this matter.

Rep. Perkins asked if Rep. Collins was aware of any other transgender women located in MCC.

Rep. Collins stated that resident Albert stated there is at least one other transgender woman located in MCC, and according to conversations with Jennifer Gingrich, who has spoken with inmates over an extended period of time, that there may be at least three individuals who are transgender women in MCC, however at this time only resident Balcer is behaving in a way that is predatory in behavior with women in MCC. Rep. Collins stated that the transgender issue is not part of her concern, but the abusive behavior and sexual harassment by resident Balcer with no disciplinary action taken is the concern.

Rep. Perkins asked Rep. Collins if she was aware of any individuals who were born female and identify as male in MCC.

Rep. Collins stated that she is aware of one individual in the facility who identifies as male in the female facility.

With no further questions from the Committee, Sen. Hickman thanked Rep. Collins for coming today.

Sen. Hickman addressed the Committee, reading the introduction of the Mountain v. Liberty Complaint into the record. Sen. Hickman stated that the precedent of this Committee has been when an individual or entity, that has requested a review by this Committee, pursues remedy through the courts, this Committee defers or declines action on the matter.

Sen. Farrin stated that he is concerned about the DOC not releasing information to Rep. Collins when disclosure agreements were signed, noting that is separate from the lawsuit. Sen. Farrin stated he would like to see the Commissioner of DOC, and perhaps the Warden of MCC, come before the Committee to explain why the information has not been released.

Sen. Timberlake stated he would also like to hear from the Commissioner of DOC and the Warden of MCC on why the information has not been released, and to find a solution to the situation. Sen. Timberlake also stated he was concerned that the lawsuit would cost the State of Maine thousands of dollars to defend and could have been avoided if there had been a response to the situation.

Rep. Mastraccio stated she would be in favor of inviting the Commissioner of DOC and the Warden of MCC to come before the Committee if the questions the Committee asked are not related to the lawsuit. Rep. Mastraccio noted that Title 34-A § 3031(10) was amended by the Legislature in 2021 without much contention and would like to know if the policies that were implemented around this amendment have unintended consequences or if there are some changes that should be made, also noting that the issue of the lack of the response to the FOAA request is not part of the lawsuit and she would like to learn more about that.

Rep. Perkins stated that he has some answers to some of the questions that were asked of Rep. Collins. Rep. Perkins stated that as a member of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety and prior to any request on this matter made to this Committee, he was contacted by a family member of resident Mountain, who is one of his constituents. Rep. Perkins stated that he did sit down with the Commissioner of DOC regarding this matter, adding that he did not receive very satisfactory answers regarding any kind of resolution on this matter. Rep. Perkins believes this situation is a failure to maintain the rights and safety and people in custody, whether due to a law change, policy implemented or poor leadership. Rep. Perkins stated that as legislators, the Committee has a duty to help ensure safety and dignity of all residents while in custody and would like to hear from the Commissioner of DOC and the Warden of MCC to explain why they have failed in this matter.

Rep. Eder stated he would like to hear from DOC and about the general policy of housing transgender inmates and how it is applied.

Rep. Lemelin stated he would also like to invite the Commissioner of DOC to come before the Committee, adding that he believes there was an easy solution to this situation by isolating the individual who is doing the harassing and abusive behavior and would like to know why this was not done.

Sen. Guerin stated she would like to learn what the sexual harassment or abuse standards are for inmates in the DOC.

Motion and Vote

Sen. Timberlake made the motion to invite Commissioner Randall Liberty and Warden Ben Beal to appear before the Committee to answer questions the Committee has concerning the letter by Rep. Collins sent to the Committee, with questions to be sent to them in advance of the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Rep. Perkins.

Following Committee discussion the vote was taken.

The motion was unanimously approved by all members who voted. (Eight members were present for the vote, one member voted later by absentee as allowed by Committee Rules.)

Second Work Session: OPEGA Report on Office of Child and Family Services, Timeliness of Child Care Payments (for Children in State Custody)

Invited: Director, Office of Child and Family Services

Sen. Hickman next welcomed Director Bobbi Johnson, of the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS), to continue the Committee's Work Session on the recent OPEGA Report: *Office of Child and Family Services: Timeliness of Child Care Payments*. That report may be found here: [OPEGA Report concerning the timeliness of child care payments for children in state custody](#)

Sen. Hickman also noted for the Committee that during the OPEGA Director's report later in the meeting, Members will see the letter previously voted on by which the Chairs have written to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS) Commissioner inquiring about email accounts at agencies other than DHHS that may not have certain retention features, an issue which was noted on page 23 of the OPEGA Report. That letter may be found here: [Letter to DAFS regarding email accounts.](#)

Sen. Hickman invited Director Johnson to make an additional statement to the Committee.

Director Johnson greeted the Committee and provided the written responses of questions the Committee had during the February 27, 2026, GOC meeting regarding the OPEGA Report, which may be found here: [DHHS letter to GOC regarding February 27, 2026, meeting.](#)

Director Johnson stated that she appreciates the continued conversation related to the OPEGA Report on timeliness of payments to child care providers by OCFS and is pleased that OPEGA recognized that OCFS is processing child care payments within 30 calendar days of receipt over 95% of the time and within seven days 66.8% of the time. Director Johnson stated this finding reflects the Department's continued focus on timely processing and operational performance.

Director Johnson stated that OCFS recognizes that there is always room for improvement and continued efforts in response to the two recommendations outlined by OPEGA:

1. Establishing and documenting a standardized statewide process, and
2. Clarifying and communicating current invoice requirements between the different parties involved in the process.

Director Johnson stated that the Department deeply values child care providers who deliver care to children in state custody, and reliable payment practices help ensure this critical network of care remains strong and sustainable.

Director Johnson stated she would be happy to answer questions the Committee has regarding responses provided to the Committee.

Sen. Farrin stated he would like to know the timeline and schedule for the implementation of the two recommendations outlined by OPEGA so the Committee can track the progress.

Director Johnson stated that OCFS has engaged with the DHHS Operational Excellence Team (OpEx), noting that she is the executive sponsor on this project and OCFS Chief Operating Officer John Feeney is the Lead on this project. Director Johnson stated that work sessions are being conducted in several district offices for this project to establish a thorough understanding of the challenges and opportunities that exist within the current process. Director Johnson stated the goal of the project is to establish clear expectations and a standardized process that will be documented in a standard operating procedure, as well as a standardized invoice template, and on demand training for staff who are responsible for these activities. Director Johnson stated that they are on track for this project to be finished by Fall of this year.

Sen. Farrin asked for a more specific timeline of the implementations.

Director Johnson stated that she anticipates implementations to be made by end of October or beginning of November.

Sen. Timberlake asked Director Johnson if as of now, all payments to child care providers are being made on time or if there are some outstanding payments that need to be made.

Director Johnson stated that she does not have information with her to answer Sen. Timberlake's question, adding that she assumes the timely payment rate that is in the OPEGA report remains the same, and any issues that are brought to their attention are quickly followed up on to ensure the issue is resolved. Director Johnson added that OCFS is committed to paying invoices once they are received as timely as possible.

Sen. Timberlake stated that he wants to know if all of the cases where there was an issue have been resolved and payment issued.

Director Johnson stated that OPEGA's report showed that OCFS is performing within state standards for payment 95.5% of the time. Director Johnson added that all of the cases that were brought to OCFS's attention from the Report but one had been resolved by February 27, 2026, and the one remaining case was resolved as soon as they were able to.

Sen. Timberlake asked if all invoices OCFS has received to date are paid.

Director Johnson stated that there could be cases currently with payment issues that once brought to OCFS's attention will be resolved as quickly as possible.

Sen. Guerin asked how OCFS tracks invoices for child care providers that have issues, and how will OCFS know when invoices are not paid timely.

Director Johnson stated that as issues are brought to their attention as not being paid timely, those issues are addressed. Director Johnson stated that OCFS, with OpEx, is creating a standardized process which will allow OCFS to track the date that an invoice is received and as it goes through the system which will allow them to track invoices and know when they are not paid timely.

Sen. Guerin asked if OCFS has a file to put the invoices with issues in to be able to keep checking on the status of those invoices until they are paid.

Director Johnson stated that once an invoice that has not been paid timely is brought to their attention, that invoice is tracked through the system until the payment is issued.

Sen. Guerin asked if unique invoice numbers would make it easier to locate or correct invoices.

Director Johnson stated that invoices are based on dates of service for the child and the information on the invoice is how they are able to track down invoices currently and have always been able to do so.

Sen. Guerin asked if there was any intention of OCFS to implement identifying invoice numbers for each invoice.

Director Johnson stated that the OpEx Team could consider implementing identifying invoice numbers as a recommendation from this Committee.

Sen. Timberlake asked Director Johnson if the generic email accounts in OCFS with limited retention features as noted in the OPEGA report have been upgraded.

Director Johnson stated that as soon as OPEGA made OCFS aware of the issue with those email accounts, the Office of Information Technology (IT) was contacted to correct this issue. Director Johnson stated that all generic email accounts were upgraded to ensure that emails sent to or from those accounts could not be permanently deleted.

Rep. Mastraccio stated that she would like to have a follow-up to this Report to ensure that changes that have been made have met the recommendations made by the OPEGA Report, and that those recommendations have been a benefit to OCFS and providers.

Director Johnson stated that OCFS also has their own quality assurance and will review the changes made to ensure the changes are resulting in the intended outcomes.

With no further questions from the Committee, Sen. Hickman thanked Director Johnson for appearing before the Committee.

Motion and Vote

Sen. Hickman asked if there was a motion to endorse OPEGA's Report.

Rep. Mastraccio made the motion to endorse the OPEGA Report, *Office of Child and Family Services: Timeliness of Child Care Payments*.

The motion was not seconded; no vote was taken.

Further Committee Consideration: Contract Administration in DHHS Invited: DHHS Representative Invited

Sen. Hickman turned to the next item on the agenda, adding that at the Committee's last meeting they heard from some providers in the community and received letters from other providers with concerns in contract administration in DHHS.

Sen. Hickman invited officials from DHHS to introduce themselves and provide any statement on this matter they wish.

Todd Haber, Acting Deputy Commissioner of Finance for DHHS introduced himself as well as Jim Lopatosky, Director of Contract Management. Mr. Haber provided opening remarks and additional information to the Committee which may be found here: [Comments by Acting Deputy Commissioner of Finance, Todd Haber, and Director of Contract Management, Jim Lopatosky](#).

Sen. Hickman asked why the procurement process is so complicated.

Mr. Haber stated that there is a balance in having requirements in contracts to oversee the service delivery, adding that there are a lot of requirements in contracts related to compliance with federal and state regulations. Mr. Haber stated that there is a lot of oversight and process that is in contracts in order to meet all the requirements for compliance and service delivery.

Rep. Stover asked about the impact that quarterly reports have on timely contracts, adding that she understands if someone is late with a quarterly report that unbalances the timeline of the current contract and could delay the encumbrance of a new contract.

Director Lopatosky stated that delay in submitting a quarterly report does not typically delay the encumbrance of a new contract, though if providers are delayed in submitting their quarterly reports a new contract could contain language to hold the provider accountable by delaying payments if quarterly reports are delayed in the future. Director Lopatosky added that this is one reason that the process can be complicated.

Rep. Stover asked, regarding starting contract dates of July 1st and October 1st, whether providers are given a deadline for submitting information to ensure that the new contract is ready for timely encumbrance of that contract.

Director Lopatosky stated that there is a regular schedule of timelines that is communicated to the offices within DHHS, adding that the schedules are staggered to allow appropriate time to review the contracts. Director Lopatosky stated that the volume of contracts becomes a challenge.

Rep. Perkins stated that he understands the complexity of contracting because of oversight but asked why there is increasing complexity in contracts and how does that affect the timeliness of payments.

Mr. Haber stated that the requirements from both the state and federal governments do change over time and new requirements are needed. Mr. Haber stated that there is also complexity with new programs for which new requirements need to be put in place.

Director Lopatosky stated that they learn from previous contracts where there were issues, and contracts are modified to increase protection for the department which also increases complexity.

Rep. Perkins asked if new requirements from the state are in the form of statutory requirements, regulatory requirements or procedural requirements.

Mr. Haber stated that new requirements can be from all three of the sources Rep. Perkins mentioned.

Rep. Perkins stated that if changes are made due to procedural requirements that make the process more complex, that could slow down the process and asked how big of a factor are procedural requirements in the contract process.

Mr. Haber stated that there has not been a great deal of change as far as internal process, that most of the new procedural requirements come from an external source, either state or federal.

Rep. Lemelin asked for clarification regarding Template Contracts with providers to support MaineCare services for individuals who are not eligible for MaineCare and are uninsured or underinsured.

Mr. Haber stated that Template Contracts, as with all of the contracts related to MaineCare services, contain language that says the client member must be screened for eligibility for MaineCare, so the individual is someone who is not MaineCare eligible or will become eligible in the future and services may be delivered to them while they are waiting for their MaineCare application to ensure that there is no overlap between what MaineCare would pay versus what the Department would pay.

Rep. Lemelin asked if they would pay the provider assuming the individual will qualify for MaineCare, but the individual ends up not being eligible for MaineCare, does the Department have to go back to the provider to collect reimbursement of that payment.

Mr. Haber stated there would still be payment made to the provider under the current contract, and the provider would continue services under contract on the service side as opposed to the MaineCare side as the individual would be underinsured or uninsured and be eligible for the services provided under this state service contract.

Rep. Mastraccio asked if the Department of Contract Management (DCM) was part of the reorganization of how the state managed tobacco funds, adding that at the last meeting it was stated by Ms. Page from Healthy Communities of the Capital Area, that the motivation for creating DCM was consolidation of the contract management but that the result created a system that makes it very difficult for the agencies to budget, manage and report on as well as creating long delays. Rep. Mastraccio added that Mr. L'Italien stated that DCM separating program people from contract people is where the system broke down and that communication between program and contract is critical. Rep. Mastraccio asked Mr. Haber and Director Lopatosky to comment on those statements as well as what the Department is doing to fix the staffing needs of DCM.

Director Lopatosky stated that DCM was created as part of the consolidation of behavioral and developmental services and human services with the goal to take off the administrative burden from the program area so they can focus on the program outcomes. Director Lopatosky acknowledges there are challenges that DCM has faced with staffing, but this issue is happening across the board not only in DCM.

Mr. Haber added DCM is focused on stabilizing the current workforce by retaining staff who have gained experience with this work and developing expertise around the different situations involved in the work which will then create more efficiency.

Director Lopatosky stated that the chart on page five of the document provided shows the contract volume DCM processes which has an effect on retaining staff. Director Lopatosky stated that they are working on shifting away from all contracts having a start date of July 1st in order to spread the workload throughout the fiscal year.

Rep. Mastraccio asked what vendors can do if they have an issue or do not think the process is working well and how can they provide feedback, and how does DCM process that feedback.

Director Lopatosky stated that vendors can reach out to him and his leadership team, adding that yesterday he received a call from a vendor with questions about their specific contract for which he was able to provide more details and context to the vendor.

Rep. Mastraccio asked if it is communicated clearly to vendors of where to call or reach out if they have questions, concerns with their contract or feedback about the process.

Director Lopatosky stated he will work on finding a way for vendors to communicate with DCM that works for both DCM and the provider community to provide feedback.

Rep. Stover asked if DCM is doing many two-year contracts.

Director Lopatosky stated that DCM tries to have the contracts be a standard two-year contract with alternating start dates as the goal.

Rep. Stover stated that in her work with addiction, there are times when they have an individual who needs a treatment bed immediately and is assumed to qualify for MaineCare but cannot wait for treatment while waiting for MaineCare eligibility, and there are some treatment centers that will take an individual in this circumstance with a presumption they will qualify for MaineCare. Rep. Stover asked if this was a good example of a provider with a contract to support MaineCare services for individuals who are not eligible for MaineCare.

Mr. Haber stated that Rep. Stover's experience is a perfect example of a presumptive MaineCare eligibility individual that needs treatment, and the provider knows that through their contract there is a funding source that can be utilized for their treatment.

Rep. Perkins asked, with regard to the goal of having two-year contracts with different start dates, would there be any kind of increased audit control or program oversight.

Mr. Haber stated that the Program side does periodic overviews of providers depending on the service-type. Mr. Haber stated that the two-year contract provides a reduced workload for DCM and the provider as well as greater consistency of funding streams for providers.

Rep. Perkins asked who performs the oversight, and would that be the Program Integrity Unit.

Mr. Haber stated that the Program Integrity Unit is for MaineCare, and the oversight of the service contract side would be done by the Program office and if there was a question regarding the financials the internal audit office could be involved.

Sen. Hickman stated his biggest concern is the delay of contract encumbrance and nonprofits taking out lines of credit to get by while waiting for funds. Sen. Hickman stated that a lot has been explained during this conversation, however he does not see a light at the end of the tunnel, adding that the providers need to be paid so they can continue to provide services to the people in the state. Sen. Hickman thanked Mr. Haber and Director Lopatosky for coming.

Mr. Haber stated he appreciates the opportunity to provide information to the Committee and the Department is committed to encumbering contracts on time so the nonprofits can deliver the services they are contracted to do. Mr. Haber stated it is a continuous improvement process, and they are committed to reviewing the process and making improvements.

Sen. Hickman asked the Committee if it would consider asking Director Schleck to prepare a scope of work that includes delays in grants and contract encumbrance across state agencies.

Rep. Mastraccio stated that she believes the Committee should do something on this matter, and her concern is with other work already assigned to OPEGA, when this would be addressed, adding that she does not want this to take a year to get to.

Sen. Hickman invited Director Schleck to join the conversation and asked the Director what the scope of work on this matter may contain.

Director Schleck stated that he could come back to the next Committee meeting with a proposed scope of work for the Committee to consider, expanding on the question “is critical investment in scarce social services further impaired by potentially suboptimal contract management and administration”. Director Schleck stated that enough testimony has been sent to the Committee that does suggest there is a systemic level of concern that has to do with the encumbering of contracts, the timing of getting access to the money, and running out of time at the end of the fiscal year.

Rep. Mastraccio asked Director Schleck what the timing of an OPEGA evaluation on this matter would be.

Director Schleck stated that OPEGA is currently working on two evaluations, the Seed Potato Certification Program and Juniper Ridge Landfill. Director Schleck stated that other matters on the OPEGA work plan are the Chelsea Kinship Placement Case File Review (which cannot be worked on at the moment due to the pending criminal trial), a Risk Assessment of the MaineCare Program Integrity Unit, and the DAFS 16 Sole Source Non-Competitive Procurements. Director Schleck stated that any additional work assigned to OPEGA could not be done until well into next year unless the Committee votes to reprioritize items on the OPEGA work plan.

Further Committee discussion on this matter included OPEGA’s current resources, whether hiring consultants could be beneficial, the current list of evaluations already assigned to OPEGA, and whether the Committee, regardless of current available OPEGA resources, would want to assign OPEGA to prepare a scope of work on this matter for the Committee to consider.

Motion and Vote

Rep. Mastraccio made the motion to direct the OPEGA Director to prepare a scope of work on a review of Contract Management across all state agencies for the Committee to consider.

The motion was seconded by Rep. Lemelin.
With no further discussion the vote was taken.

The motion was unanimously approved by all members who voted. (Nine members were present for the vote, two members voted later by absentee as allowed by Committee Rules.)

OPEGA Director's Report

Sen. Hickman next invited Director Schleck to present his Director's report.

Director Schleck updated the Committee on the Chelsea matter, DHHS Kinship Placement, for which there was a recent Bind Over hearing for the defendant the director was able to attend. Director Schleck provided recent articles which summarized information presented during the hearing, those articles may be found here: [Media regarding Chelse Case update](#)

Director Schleck next shared a follow-up letter to GOC from an OCFS employee regarding OCFS conditions and improvements. That letter may be found here: [Follow-up to 2023 Frontline Perspectives Regarding OCFS](#)

Director Schleck next shared a request letter from Rep. Milliken to the GOC regarding allegations of retaliation by DHHS towards a childcare provider, Betsey Grant, previously brought before the Committee. Rep. Milliken's letter may be found here: [Letter to GOC from Rep. Milliken](#)

Director Schleck also shared with the Committee the Complaint which Ms. Grant has filed in federal court. Director Schleck added that when there is a court case pending, there could be issues of OPEGA trying to do an evaluation at the same time as a court case. Director Schleck also stated that as a Legislator wrote the request to the Committee, the Committee may choose to invite Rep. Milliken to present her request. Ms. Grant's federal complaint may be found here: [Grant v. DHHS](#)

Rep. Perkins stated that the Committee should extend an invitation to Rep. Milliken to present her request, as that is what the Committee does for every request received by a Legislator.

Sen. Hickman stated the chairs would add Rep. Milliken's request to a future agenda.

Director Schleck next provided the Committee with an updated Bill Tracking document, which may be found here: [Updated 132nd Legislature Bill Tracking for GOC](#)

Director Schleck stated that subject to subsequent confirmation by the Chairs, the next GOC meeting date is tentatively scheduled for June 17, 2026.

Adjourn

With no further discussion, Sen. Hickman adjourned the Government Oversight Committee, without objection, at approximately 12:02pm.