

SCOPE STATEMENT

State Agency Information Systems: Reviewing the Kansas Health Policy Authority's Management of Those Systems

The Kansas Health Policy Authority was created by the 2005 Legislature, and became a State agency on July 1, 2005. Its purpose was to develop and maintain a coordinated health policy agenda that combined effective purchasing and administration with health-promotion-oriented public health strategies. The legislation moved major health programs into the Authority such as Medicaid, the State Employees Health Plan, Medikan, and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP). The Authority's fiscal year 2008 budget is \$1.4 billion, with 235 full-time equivalent positions.

During the last few years, concerns have been expressed about the lack of monitoring of State computer systems. Each year State agencies become more dependent on their computer systems and on the data those systems contain to make decisions and fulfill their missions. More and more, computing is moving out of the data center and into the hands of staff who use the data to make decisions. Computers and computer networks also are being used to communicate with the public, provide services, and conduct business.

These are positive developments that can result in increased efficiency and effectiveness and better service. However, significant risks are associated with these advances in technology that agencies should be addressing and managing. For example, in managing the State's major health insurance programs, the Authority must handle and maintain confidential and highly sensitive information on thousands of Kansans. At present there is little oversight of agencies' computer operations to monitor whether these risks are being adequately managed.

To help address these risks, the Legislative Post Audit Committee approved information system audits to be done as an adjunct to the Division's compliance and control audits. This audit looks at the Authority and will address the following questions:

1. **How well does the Authority manage the security of its information systems?** To answer this question, we will review the Authority's system of managing its information system security, with an emphasis on how the security function is structured and managed, and on security policies and procedures.
2. **How well does the Authority carry out its security policies?** We will work in conjunction with the Enterprise Security Office in answering this question. (The Enterprise Security Office is the central IT security office for Kansas government and reports to the Executive Branch Chief Information Technology Officer.) The Security Office will conduct a detailed security vulnerability assessment of the Authority's systems. If the Security Office identifies significant vulnerabilities, we will attempt to determine what security management weaknesses allowed those vulnerabilities to exist.

Estimated time to Complete: 20-24 weeks.