MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

This topic was first brought to the attention of the Government Oversight Committee (GOC) in February 2011 when the Committee was considering ideas for new projects for OPEGA's annual workplan. A number of GOC members confirmed that the financial management of Child Development Services had come up in other joint standing committees they sit on a number of times in recent years and remained an area of interest. On March 4, 2011 GOC members voted unanimously to direct OPEGA to begin preliminary work on this topic. At the Committee's May 13, 2011 meeting, the results of that preliminary work were discussed and the GOC approved OPEGA's recommended scope questions for a full review of Child Developmental Services (CDS).

The scope questions approved by the Government Oversight Committee for this review include:

1. What processes and controls does CDS use to manage and contain program costs when establishing plans and providing services to children? Are they sufficient to assure that services are reasonable and necessary to produce the desired outcome, and that related billings are accurate and appropriate? Do they assure CDS human and financial resources are utilized efficiently and productively, and that costs are otherwise minimized to the extent possible?
2. How much of the funding for CDS is expended on administrative costs versus direct delivery of services? What are the primary components of the costs for direct delivery of services? How do administrative and direct delivery costs compare among CDS sites? What are the reasons for any significant trends or differences in costs and do they suggest any opportunities to reduce costs?
3. What entities have a role in overseeing and managing the CDS program and what is each role? Which entities have responsibilities with regard to budget development and monitoring? How effectively does each carry out those responsibilities? Are there any gaps or overlaps/duplications in oversight or management that could negatively impact finances, or transparency and accountability?

This project is expected to be completed in early 2012.

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