

David B. Fye, JD, Executive Director

Laura Kelly, Governor

LEGISLATIVE POST AUDIT COMMITTEE
BSRB TESTIMONY ON REPORT R-23-006
JULY 6, 2023

Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislative Post Audit Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning Report Number R-23-006, *“Information Systems: Reviewing Specific IT Security Controls Across State Agencies and School District.”* I am David Fye, Executive Director for the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB). The BSRB is a small state agency that licenses most of the state’s mental health professionals, including the professions of Professional Counseling, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, Addiction Counseling, Licensed Psychology, Master’s Level Psychology, and Behavior Analysis.

We appreciated the opportunity to be selected as one of 15 agencies that participated in this combined IT audit. As an agency, we value the importance of keeping information secure and are always trying to learn new ways to protect the data that we oversee. As an agency practice, we are always trying to learn better practices and we hold frequently conversations with staff to ensure that we are mindful of our responsibilities to the individuals we serve. As part of this audit process, we held internal meetings to prepare for a review by the members of the Legislative Post Audit team. As a small agency, we rely on assistance from many different agencies and other entities, and we appreciate those good partnerships, such as with the members of the Office of Information Technology Services (OITS) who assisted us in preparing for this audit. Throughout this process, we held productive conversations with the members of the Legislative Post Audit team and we strived not only to meet the standards of the audit, but also to learn from the experience and to implement even better practices moving forward.

Overall, we were pleased to receive mostly positive comments and feedback concerning our practices, however we understand there are always areas for improvement. We also recognize that it is helpful to be mindful that we should continue to enforce good practices. Included in the report, I have provided comments noting that we will be addressing any items identified by the members of the Legislative Post Audit team and I included comments addressing a small number of concerns we had with the audit process. One of our primary concerns is that, as this is an audit with combined findings, the results for specific agencies may not be represented in a helpful way, due to the overall summaries of the findings for all groups. Also, we noticed the draft report included generalized comments on general reasons for undesirable outcomes, and we were concerned that the report may give the impression that these comments were true for all agencies that participated in the audit. Additionally, we had minor concerns with some of the standards utilized in the audit, as some standards matched the ITEC standards, but other standards used to score agencies were “best practice standards.” While we recognize that there is always room for improvement, we took steps to try to ensure that we were meeting appropriate standards, and were unable to anticipate the specific criteria that was desired that was above and beyond the standards in the ITEC policy.

We appreciated the opportunity to learn from this experience we will strive enforce good policies while making other changes to improve our security position.



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Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board