

**Government Oversight Committee (GOC) and OPEGA Activities Regarding  
Child Welfare and the Child Protective Services System  
March 2018 – April 2021**

**Timeline of Work Assigned to OPEGA by the GOC**

- **March to May 2018: Case Study and Information Brief on CPS System.** The GOC directed OPEGA to conduct a case study of how the child protective services system functioned in two cases of child death by abuse in the State.
  - OPEGA Information Brief, May 2018
- **June 2018 to February 2019: Review and Report on Perspectives of Frontline Workers.** The GOC directed OPEGA collect and analyze data on the factors that impact the efficiency and effectiveness of frontline workers in the child protective services system.
  - OPEGA Report, February 2019
- **March 2019: Follow-up Work.** After considering OPEGA’s report on the perspectives of frontline workers in the child protective services system, the GOC added the following two projects to OPEGA’s work plan:
  - A review of out-of-home (OOH) placements for children removed from their homes by the state, to be initiated in 2019.
  - A follow-up survey of the OCFS frontline workers, to be done in future.
- **October 2019 to September 2020: Pause OOH Review and Monitor Data.** GOC directed OPEGA to pause Preliminary Research for the review of OOH placements and to gather and monitor monthly data available from DHHS related to out-of-home placements and overall system performance for a 12-month period.
- **March 2021: Follow-up Frontline Worker Survey authorized.** OPEGA updated the GOC on data monitoring during 2019-2020. GOC directed OPEGA to keep OOH project on pause and to proceed with the follow-up frontline worker survey project when OPEGA resources become available.

**Briefings and Presentations to the GOC**

- **May 2019: DHHS / Office of Child and Family Services.** The GOC had a presentation from DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew and OCFS Director Todd Landry on the Department’s plans for improvements to child protective services.
- **September 2019: DHHS / Office of Child and Family Services.** Director Landry returned to the GOC to present on the agency’s plan for prioritized initiatives and strategies, largely based on recommendations from Public Consulting Group (PCG), to improve Maine’s child protective services system.
- **March 2020: DHHS / Office of Child and Family Services.** Director Landry returned to the GOC to present information on the agency’s plan for and status of prioritized initiatives and strategies to improve Maine’s child protective services system.
- **March 2021: Child Welfare Services Ombudsman.** Executive Director, Christine Alberi presented the Maine Child Welfare Services Ombudsman 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Report, 2020.
- **April 2021: DHHS / Office of Child and Family Services.** Director Landry returned to the GOC to present on the status of the agency’s ongoing efforts to implement initiatives and strategies to improve the child protective services system.