SAO Performance Audit Update

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Financial Management Advisory Council

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- Background on SAO Performance Audits

- Summary of Recent Audits

- Preview of Coming Attractions

- Cybersecurity Audits

SAO Performance Audits

- Audit authority comes from 2005 Initiative 900

- Audit universe includes all state agencies and local governments

- Audits are selected (a) by the SAO executive team, or (b) through legislation

SAO Performance Audits

- Goal is to improve government performance

- Performance audits address five general types of audit objectives:

  - Descriptive – What is the current state of the program?

  - Effectiveness – Is the program producing the expected results?

  - Efficiency – Is the program making good use of its resources?

  - Compliance – Is the program following applicable requirements?

  - Prospective – What would be the effect of a change to the program?

- Most performance audits combine two or more of these areas

SAO Performance Audits

- I-900 identifies nine elements to consider in each performance audit:

  1. Cost savings

  2. Service reduction

  3. Privatization

  4. Service gaps or overlap

  5. Technology consolidation

  6. Organizational structure

  7. Statutory or regulatory changes

  8. Performance measurement

  9. Best practices

Summary of Recent Audits

- Emergency Management (May 2019)

- K-12 Homelessness (Apr 2019)

- K-12 School Safety Planning (Mar 2019)

- Bail Reform (Feb 2019)

- I-1163: Extended Family Exemptions (Feb 2019)

- Safe Data Disposal (Dec 2018)

- IT Vendor Contract Assurances (Dec 2018)

- Health Professionals Licensing Fees (Nov 2018)

- Charter School Accountability (Nov 2018)

- K-12 Criminal History Notifications (May 2018/Nov 2018)

https://www.sao.wa.gov/performance-audits/search-performance-reports/

Coming Attractions

- K-12 Nutrition (August 2019)

- Medicaid: Fluoride Treatments (September 2019)

- Student Vaccinations (Fall 2019)

- UW School of Dentistry (Fall 2019)

- Sound Transit (Winter 2020)

- Agency Disaster Recovery Systems (Winter 2020)

- Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership (Spring 2020)

- Behavioral Health System Reform (Spring 2020)

- Department of Fish & Wildlife (Summer 2020)

https://www.sao.wa.gov/performance-audits/performance-audits-in-progress/

Cybersecurity Audits

- Special type of performance audit

- Look for weaknesses in security and propose solutions

  - Evaluate security controls

  - Test for vulnerabilities

- Cybersecurity audit team

  - Security auditors

  - Security specialists

  - Security contractor

Cybersecurity Audits

- Reporting

  - Very little detail

  - Don't list state agencies

  - Don't reveal specific weaknesses

- Number of entities

  - Historically 3 state agencies and 3 local governments

  - Enhanced funding for 2019-2021 to double the coverage

Questions???

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