



June 1, 2020

Senator Dee Brown, Chair  
Legislative Audit Committee  
PO Box 201705  
Helena, MT 59620-1705

RECEIVED  
June 1, 2020  
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT DIV.

**Subject: Information Systems Audit #18DP-01 of the Montana Prescription Drug Registry Update**

Dear Chair Brown:

As promised in our previous discussion, the Montana Department of Labor and Industry is providing this update to the Legislative Audit Committee on actions taken to date in response to Audit #18DP-01 regarding the Montana Prescription Drug Registry (MPDR). Most of the recommendations regarding process changes and security reviews have been implemented. Here is the status of the items still in progress:

- 1) MPDR enhanced functionality - As stated in our original response to the audit, multiple recommendations were targeted for resolution with functionality in a new system platform. These recommendations were incorporated into the requirements of a Request for Proposal issued earlier this spring. Responses to the RFP were scored and DLI expects the project will be awarded within weeks. The new system should be operational in November 2020. The enhanced functionality of the audit recommendations will be in place upon successful implementation of the new system.
- 2) MPDR program manager. Upon conducting the formal analysis to determine resources to properly manage the MPDR (Recommendation #8), the Department posted a position to assist with operations. Qualifications, job description, and classification for this position were completed between July and December of 2019. The position was posted as a Pharmacist, to reduce the detailed involvement currently required of the incumbent Executive Officer for the Board of Pharmacy. Recruitment opened in January; unfortunately, no qualified candidates accepted an offer of employment. Additional attempts at recruiting were put on hold due to the emerging Covid-19 crisis. While we expect to re-open recruitment soon, the Department is also exploring options to include temporary hires or changing the minimum qualifications for the position to expand the potential applicant pool. Currently, the Department is utilizing our pharmacy inspectors (licensed pharmacists) to assist in completing MPDR duties.

- 3) Re-establishment/Involvement of MPDR Advisory Group. Recommendation #9 suggested re-engaging the Prescription Drug Advisory Group. The Board of Pharmacy has begun appointing members to the MPDR Advisory Group and included two members on the MPDR RFP scoring committee. The Advisory Group will also assist in implementation planning of the new platform.

In closing, the Department continues to strive to improve our systems and processes as information and technology evolve. DLI looks forward to working with legislators, MPDR stakeholders and citizens to continue to improve and maximize the potential of this tool; which in the end benefits all Montanans. Thank you for your time and attention. We are ready and available if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Brenda Nordlund  
Acting Commissioner  
Department of Labor and Industry

CC: Angus Maciver, Legislative Auditor  
Todd Younkin, BSD Administrator