



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report
Snohomish Health District
Snohomish County

For the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

Published September 18, 2017

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Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

September 18, 2017

Board of Health
Snohomish Health District
Everett, Washington

Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for District operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

The attached comprises our report on the District's compliance and safeguarding of public resources. Our independent audit report describes the overall results and conclusions for areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and we value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy
State Auditor
Olympia, WA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Audit Summary	4
Related Reports	5
Information About The District	6
About The State Auditor’s Office	7

AUDIT SUMMARY

Results in brief

In most areas we audited, District operations complied with applicable requirements and provided adequate safeguarding of public resources. The District also complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in most areas we examined.

However, we noted certain matters that we communicated to District management in a letter dated September 11, 2017, related to the billing and cash receipting system. We appreciate the District's commitment to resolving those matters.

About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Snohomish Health District from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

Our audit involved performing procedures to obtain evidence about the District's uses of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Billing system review, including
 - Licenses and permits
 - Charge for service
 - Financial condition
 - Self-insurance

RELATED REPORTS

Financial

Our opinion on the District's financial statements and compliance with federal grant program requirements is provided in a separate report, which includes the District's financial statements. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

Federal grant programs

We evaluated internal controls and tested compliance with the federal program requirements, as applicable, for the District's major federal programs, which are listed in the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs section of the separate financial statement and single audit report. That report includes a federal finding related to allowable activities and cost principles in the Medical Assistance Program. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DISTRICT

The Snohomish Health District was incorporated in 1959, and currently serves the approximately 760,000 residents of Snohomish County. The District provides County residents with education and health services regarding community health, communicable disease and emergency preparedness, examines the safety of restaurant and vendor-prepared foods, enforces water quality and sewage requirements, and issues birth and death certificates.

The District is governed by the Board of Health, which comprises 15 representatives, including all five members of the Snohomish County Council, and city council members or mayors selected to serve by agreement of cities in each region of the County. The Board appoints executive management to oversee the District's daily operations as well as its staff of approximately 125 full-time employees. For fiscal year 2016, the District's general fund operating budget was approximately \$16 million.

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Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Snohomish Health District at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with our audit clients and citizens to achieve our vision of government that works for citizens, by helping governments work better, cost less, deliver higher value, and earn greater public trust.

In fulfilling our mission to hold state and local governments accountable for the use of public resources, we also hold ourselves accountable by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency and developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments as well as [fraud](#), state [whistleblower](#) and [citizen hotline](#) investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our [website](#) and through our free, electronic [subscription](#) service.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously, and provide training and technical assistance to governments, and have an extensive quality assurance program.

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