



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: MARILYN ELAM
615.532.8675 (OFFICE)
615.969.2619 (CELL)

COMPTROLLER AUDIT RECOGNIZES TENNCARE'S PROGRESS, COMMITMENT TO RESOLVING AUDIT FINDINGS

MANAGEMENT DECREASES NUMBER OF ANNUAL AUDIT FINDINGS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (May 4, 2004)—The annual audit of the TennCare Bureau shows that management has made substantial progress in resolving findings from previous years. The Bureau's improved performance was cited in the annual audit of the TennCare Bureau released today by the Comptroller's office.

"We have demonstrated our commitment to correcting TennCare's audit issues by resolving a number of previous findings and making substantial progress to correct remaining issues," said Manny Martins, deputy commissioner and director for the Bureau of TennCare.

Auditors found that the TennCare Bureau eliminated 16 previous audit findings and made meaningful progress toward many others. For example, last year's audit identified five critical control weaknesses in TennCare's monitoring of payments to TennCare Select. This year, only one weakness was identified.

"Evidence of this commitment is shown in the number of findings that management has resolved since the last audit and steps that it has taken to work toward resolving other findings," the auditor comments stated.

Every finding from previous audits was assigned to a member of TennCare's executive management team for resolution. For each finding, the appropriate staff member created a corrective action plan that detailed steps that are to be taken to address each finding. TennCare's Director and Operations Director monitored the work plans during the course of the year to ensure progress was being made on findings.

While many findings have been eliminated, TennCare staff continues to make progress in addressing other findings that, according to auditors, "will take some time to see marked improvement."

"There is more to be done," said Martins. "In a complex program that has been plagued with past management problems and marred by lawsuits, we do not expect to fix on-going findings overnight. We will apply the same level of diligence and commitment to these remaining issues as we have to those already corrected."

TennCare is Tennessee's managed care insurance program for 1.3 million people who are poor, disabled or uninsured.

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STATE CAPITOL, 1ST FLOOR
NASHVILLE, TN 37243
615.741.2401