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Jeb Spaulding, Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Government Accountability Committee and Joint Fiscal Committee
CC: Jeb Spaulding, Michael Clasen and Performance Accountability Liaisons
FROM: Susan A. Zeller, Chief Performance Officer (CPO)
RE: Response to Questions - 2014 Act 186 July 30, 2014 Report
DATE: September 05, 2014

At the August 18, 2014 meeting of the Government Accountability Committee (GAC), members posted several questions in regards to the 2014 Act 186 Population-Level Outcomes and Indicators report dated July 30, 2014. This memo is in response to those questions posed by GAC members. Please notify me if the Committee has additional questions.

Indicator 1C: (Public Service) % Vermont covered by state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure:

Comment – members thought using 100% as the measure, since the comments made it clear that it was for E-911 was misleading. Members stated they intended the measure be about high-speed broad band – not land-lines or cell phone.

Q. Please provide data for broad band and to use this data going forward:

A. PSD reports that 77% of Vermonter's have access to broadband speeds today of 4/1 or greater. The immediate goal is to bring the other 23% up to that speed, with the ultimate goal of bringing all addresses up to a speed of 100/100 by year end 2024.

Indicator 1E and 1E Proxy: (VT Dept. of Labor) Rate of resident unemployment per 1,000 residents:

Q. Please supply caveats for both the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) unemployment rate, as well as for the Labor Market Information Program unemployment rate; do these data points include underemployed, those who have stopped looking, etc.?

A. In short, to be "unemployed", one has to be actively looking for a job in the last 4 weeks and be willing and able to accept a job if offered. Therefore the measure of labor under-utilization does not include "underemployed" (which there is no official federal definition for) or "those who have stopped looking for work" (defined as "discouraged workers"). The provided measure of unemployed is part of the "traditional" unemployment rate, which is the most frequently referenced measure of unemployment. Currently the official unemployment rate is 3.7% as of July 2014. The following definitions may provide additional clarity: **Unemployed** - Persons 16 and over who had no job at all during the week which includes the 12th day of the month, had taken some specific steps to obtain a job within the prior month, and were available for work, expecting recall from a layoff, or waiting to begin new employment within 30 days. Persons not in the labor force, including so-called discouraged workers, are distinguished from the unemployed by the fact that they are not actively seeking work; **Discouraged Workers** - A term used to describe persons aged 16 or over without jobs who are not actively seeking employment because they believe that they would be unable to find a job. Even though discouraged workers would like to be employed, they are not counted as unemployed, or even as part of the labor force. This

number, added to the number of counted unemployed, can give a better idea of the actual number of potential workers.

Indicator 4A: (Public Safety) Rate of petitions granted for relief from domestic abuse per 1,000 residents:

Q1. Does the data as shown (“0.006”) mean 6 out of 1,000?

A1. This data comes from the Court Administrator’s Office and is not data usually reviewed or provided by Public Safety. The .006 is a raw population / percentage calculation and the correct calculation of this number at the ‘per 1,000 population’ level would be as follows: 2012 – 5.887; 2011 – 5.887; 2010 – 6.079.

Q2. The indicator was thought to be % granted from all petitions applied for but this was not clear from the comments.

A2. The information provided came from the yearly Family Court of Vermont Summary and only provides the number of Relief from Abuse (RFA) Orders Added and Disposed during the year as noted in the report topic (Rate of petitions granted for relief from domestic abuse per 1,000 residents). Additional data is contained in the summary report (including information that may related to percentage of petitions granted) but would need to be reported on by the Court Administrator’s Office as this is not data that is utilized or maintained by DPS/VCIC. <https://www.vermontjudiciary.org/JC/Shared%20Documents/2012-Family.pdf>

Indicator 4G (AHS-Corrections) Percent or rate of 1,000 residents entering the corrections system:

Q. Please confirm that this is new entrants to the corrections system and not re-enters:

A. Yes – this is new entrants only.

Data Source Questions:

Q1. Is the data source “Vital Statistics” a federal or state source?

A1. Vital Statistics is a State of Vermont data source.

Q2. What does the data source acronym “YRBS” stand for?

A2. Youth Risk Behavior Survey.