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COMPTROLLER



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STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER

September 6, 2012

Mr. Greg Olsen
Acting Director
New York State Office for the Aging
2 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1251

Re: Report 2012-F-20

Dear Mr. Olsen:

According to the State Comptroller's authority as set forth in Article V, Section 1 of the State Constitution and Article II, Section 8 of the State Finance Law, we followed up on the actions taken by officials of the New York State Office for the Aging (Office) to implement the recommendations contained in our audit report, *Network Security Controls* (Report 2010-S-23).

Background, Scope, and Objective

The New York State Office for the Aging administers various Federal and State-funded programs which serve the elderly. The majority of programs and services are administered through the 59 local offices for the aging.

The Office must comply with New York State's Office of Cyber Security's Information Security Policy, which defines a minimum set of security standards State entities must meet. One of these standards is managing the risk of security exposure or attempts to compromise the entity's information systems.

Our initial audit report, issued on June 9, 2011, examined selected aspects of the security controls in place over the Office's computer network for the period May 5, 2010 through December 15, 2010. We identified numerous critical weaknesses on the Office's network that needed to be corrected. The objective of our follow up was to assess the extent of implementation as of August 14, 2012 of the four recommendations included in our confidential report. Due to the sensitivity of the information and the potential risk associated with the release of such information, the details of the recommendations and their implementation status are not included in this report. However, we discussed the detailed results of our follow up work with Office officials.

Summary Conclusions and Status of Audit Recommendations

Overall, we found that the Office has taken little action towards implementing our recommendations for strengthening their network security. Of the four prior audit recommendations, one has been partially implemented, and three have not been implemented.

It is essential that officials take the steps documented in our initial audit report to correct the security weaknesses we identified. Until these weaknesses are addressed, systems and data will continue to be at serious risk of being compromised.

Major contributors to this report were Nadine Morrell, Claudia Christodoulou, Jennifer Van Tassel, and Jared Hoffman.

We appreciate your response to this report within 30 days indicating any actions planned to address the unresolved issues. We thank the management and staff of the Office for the Aging for the courtesies and cooperation extended to our auditors during this process.

Yours truly,

Brian Reilly
Audit Manager

cc: Tom Lukacs, Division of the Budget