



Oklahoma State Auditor & Inspector

News Release

For Immediate Release

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OK Performance Audits Serve As Model for Virginia Inspector General

OKLAHOMA CITY – Oklahoma State Auditor Gary Jones and his Performance Audit Division staff welcomed two of their counterparts from the Commonwealth of Virginia last week.

The pair came to Oklahoma to learn how agencies are selected for audit and how the Performance Audit Division conducts those audits. The Virginia Office of the State Inspector General was required by state



Oklahoma State Auditor Gary Jones, center, meets with Virginia Office of Inspector general Performance Audit Division Director Jack Spooner, right, and Performance Auditor Ben Sutphin, left.

statute to begin conducting performance reviews as a means of examining the management and operation of agencies in that state.

“We were honored to have been selected to assist the Commonwealth of Virginia as it creates and develops a Performance Review Division,” said Oklahoma State Auditor Gary Jones. “It is our understanding that they surveyed 30 states and selected the Oklahoma State Auditor’s Office to assist in what they want to achieve in Virginia.”

Performance Audits are specific types of audits that review the effectiveness and efficiency of a government entity on everything from program implementation to delivery of services. “Like us, Virginia believes performance audits are a way to identify waste and redundancy through improved efficiencies and cost-effective changes to policies and procedures,” said Jones.

Virginia Performance Review Services Director Jack Spooner and Audit Manager Ben Sutphin spent two days interviewing the Oklahoma team and poring over audit files to develop a template for conducting similar reviews in Virginia. Spooner and Sutphin also sat in on an audit planning meeting with their Oklahoma contemporaries. They viewed the process Oklahoma performance auditors use to narrow the scope of an audit to relevant issues and interest to the general public.

“We know that proponents of consolidating multiple agencies and functions into a single state agency cited Virginia as the example Oklahoma should adopt,” Jones said. “It’s gratifying that they turned to our work as the model for making their state’s government more accountable.”

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