



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Eastern Alliance Council of Governments
Muskingum County
1500 Coal Run Road
Zanesville, Ohio 43701

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Eastern Alliance Council of Governments', Muskingum County, Ohio (the Council) receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022 and certain compliance requirements related to those transactions and balances, included in the information provided to us by the management of the Council. The Council is responsible for the receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in the cash basis accounting records for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022 and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances included in the information provided to us by the Council.

The Council Board and the management of the Council have agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of providing assistance in the evaluation of the Council's receipts, disbursements and balances recorded in their cash-basis accounting records for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022, and certain compliance requirements related to these transactions and balances. No other party acknowledged the appropriateness of the procedures. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of the report and may not meet the needs of all users of the report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes. The sufficiency of the procedures is solely the responsibility of the parties specified in the report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

For the purposes of performing these procedures, this report only describes exceptions exceeding \$10.

The procedures and the associated findings are as follows:

Cash

1. We recalculated the June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022 bank reconciliations. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed the July 1, 2021 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the QuickBooks General Ledger to the June 30, 2021 balances in the prior year Agreed-Upon Procedures working papers. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the July 1, 2022 beginning fund balances for each fund recorded in the QuickBooks General Ledger to the June 30, 2022 balances in the QuickBooks General Ledger. We found no exceptions.

Cash (Continued)

3. We agreed the 2023 and 2022 bank reconciliation as of June 30, 2023 and 2022 to the total fund cash balances reported in the QuickBooks General Ledger and the financial statements filed by the Council in the Hinkle System. We noted a variance of \$2,945 when comparing the June 30, 2023 bank reconciliation to the fund cash balance reported on the financial statements filed by the Council in the Hinkle System. This was due to the Council incorrectly recording disbursements to a Construction in Progress asset account, which understated disbursements and overstated cash fund balance. We found no other exceptions.
4. We confirmed the June 30, 2023 bank account balances with the Council's financial institutions. We found no exceptions. We also agreed the confirmed balances to the amounts appearing in the June 30, 2023 bank reconciliation without exception.
5. We selected 5 reconciling debits (such as outstanding checks) from the June 30, 2023 bank reconciliation:
 - a. We traced each debit to the subsequent July bank statement. We found no exceptions.
 - b. We traced the amounts and dates to the check register, and determined the debits were dated prior to June 30. We found no exceptions.

Other Confirmable Cash Receipts

1. We agreed to supporting documentation the individual amounts paid from Nationwide Insurance to the Council during 2023. We found no exceptions.
 - a. We inspected the QuickBooks General Ledger to determine whether these receipts were allocated to the proper fund. We found no exceptions.
 - b. We inspected the QuickBooks General Ledger to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.
2. We agreed to supporting documentation the individual amounts paid from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (via their third party payor, Morning Sun Financial) to the Council during 2022. We found no exceptions.
 - a. We inspected the QuickBooks General Ledger to determine whether these receipts were allocated to the proper fund. We found no exceptions.
 - b. We inspected the QuickBooks General Ledger to determine whether the receipts were recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Other Receipts

We selected 10 other receipts from the year ended June 30, 2023 and 10 other receipts from the year ended 2022 and:

- a. Agreed the receipt amount in the QuickBooks Detail Deposit Report to supporting documentation. The amounts agreed.
- b. Confirmed the amounts charged complied with rates in force during the period. We found no exceptions.
- c. Inspected the QuickBooks Detail Deposit Report to determine the receipt was posted to the proper fund and was recorded in the proper year. We found no exceptions.

Debt

1. The prior agreed-upon procedures documentation disclosed no debt outstanding as of June 30, 2021.
2. We inquired of management and inspected the QuickBooks Detail Deposit Report and QuickBooks Check Register Report for evidence of debt issued during 2023 or 2022 or debt payment activity during 2023 or 2022. No new debt issuances, nor any debt payment activity during 2023 or 2022 was found.

Non-Payroll Cash Disbursements

We selected 10 disbursements from the QuickBooks Check Register Report for the year ended June 30, 2023 and 10 from the year ended 2022 and determined whether:

- a. The disbursements were for a proper public purpose. We found no exceptions.
- b. The check number, date, payee name and amount recorded on the returned, canceled check agreed to the check number, date, payee name and amount recorded in the QuickBooks Check Register Report and to the names and amounts on the supporting invoices. We found no exceptions.
- c. The payment was posted to a fund consistent with the restricted purpose for which the fund's cash can be used. We found no exceptions.

Sunshine Law Compliance

1. We obtained and inspected the Council's Public Records Policy to determine the policy was in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43(E)(2) and 149.43(B)(7)(c) and did not limit the number of responses that may be made to a particular person, limit the number of responses during a specified period of time, or establish a fixed period of time before it will respond unless that period is less than eight hours. We found no exceptions.
2. We inquired with Council management and determined:
 - a. The Council did not have any completed public records requests during the engagement period.
 - b. The Council did not have any denied public records requests during the engagement period.
 - c. The Council did not have any public records requests with redactions during the engagement period.
3. We inquired whether the Council had a records retention schedule and observed that it was readily available to the public as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(B)(2). We found no exceptions.
4. We inquired with Council Management and determined the Council did not maintain written evidence the Public Records Policy was provided to the records custodian/manager as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2).
5. We inspected the Council's policy manual and determined the public records policy was included as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.
6. We observed that the Council's poster describing their Public Records Policy was displayed conspicuously in all branches of the Council as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 149.43(E)(2). We found no exceptions.

Sunshine Law Compliance (Continued)

7. We inquired with Council management and determined that the Council did not have any applications for record disposal submitted to the Records Commission during the engagement period.
8. We inquired with Council management and determined that the Council did not have any elected officials subject to the Public Records Training requirements during the engagement period as required by Ohio Rev. Code §§ 149.43(E)(1) and 109.43(B).
9. We inspected the public notices for the public meetings held during the engagement period and determined the Council notified the general public and news media of when and where meetings during the engagement period were to be held as required by Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(F). We found no exceptions.
10. We inspected the minutes of public meetings during the engagement period in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(C) and determined whether they were:
 - a. Prepared – a file is created following the date of the meeting
 - b. Filed – placed with similar documents in an organized manner
 - c. Maintained - retained, at a minimum, for the engagement period
 - d. Open to public inspection – available for public viewing or request.We found no exceptions.
11. We inspected the minutes from the engagement period in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(G) and determined the following:
 - a. Executive sessions were only held at regular or special meetings.
 - b. The purpose for the meetings and going into an executive session (when applicable) correlated with one of the matters listed in Ohio Rev. Code § 121.22(G).
 - c. Formal governing board actions were adopted in open meetings.We found no exceptions.

Other Compliance

Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 requires Councils to file their financial information in the HINKLE system within 60 days after the close of the fiscal year. This statute also permits the Auditor of State to extend the deadline for filing a financial report and establish terms and conditions for any such extension. Auditor of State established policies, regarding the filing of complete financial statements, as defined in AOS Bulletin 2015-007 in the Hinkle System. We confirmed the Council filed their complete financial statements, as defined by AOS Bulletin 2015-007 and Auditor of State established policy within the allotted timeframe for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022 in the Hinkle system. We found no exceptions.

We were engaged by the Council to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with the attestation standards established by the AICPA and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to, and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on the Council of Government's receipts, disbursements, balances and compliance with certain laws and regulations. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the Council and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the ethical requirements established by the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* related to our agreed upon procedures engagement.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Faber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "F".

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

May 13, 2024

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



EASTERN ALLIANCE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MUSKINGUM COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 5/23/2024

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov