September 2023

ASSURANCE

Audit, Compliance & Ethics Committee Meeting



Teacher Retirement System of Texas 1000 Red River Street Austin, Texas 78701-2698

TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF TEXAS BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND AUDIT, COMPLIANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

(Mr. Walls, Jr., Chairman; Ms. Allred, Mr. Ball, Ms. Sissney and Mr. Williams, Committee Members)

All or part of the September 15, 2023, meeting of the TRS Audit, Compliance and Ethics Committee and Board of Trustees may be held by telephone or video conference call as authorized under Sections 551.130 and 551.127 of the Texas Government Code. The Board intends to have a quorum and the presiding officer physically present at the following location, which will be open to the public during the open portions of the meeting: **1000 Red River, Austin, Texas 78701 in the TRS East Building, 5th Floor, Boardroom.**

The open portions of the September 15, 2023, meeting are being broadcast over the Internet. Access to the Internet broadcast and agenda materials of the meeting is provided at <u>www.trs.texas.gov</u>. A recording of the meeting will be available at <u>www.trs.texas.gov</u>.

AGENDA

September 15, 2023 – 8:00 a.m.

- 1. Call roll of Committee members.
- 2. Approve minutes of July 2023 Audit, Compliance and Ethics Committee meeting – Mr. Robert H. Walls, Jr., Chair
- 3. Receive State Auditor's Office (SAO) presentation on planned audit of TRS' Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for Fiscal Year 2023 Hillary Eckford and Bill Hunter, SAO.
- 4. Receive Crowe LLP's presentation on the planned financial audit of TRS Investment Company (TRICOT) Michelle Buss, Crowe LLP
- 5. Receive an overview of TRS Compliance and reports including those related to ethics and fraud, conflicts of interest, and investment policies Heather Traeger and Chris Bowlin
- 6. Receive an update on Internal Audit's Data Analytics Program Jonathan O'Reilly
- 7. Consider recommending to the Board of Trustees adoption of the proposed Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2024 Amanda Jenami.
- Receive Internal Audit reports:
 A. Follow-up Reviews of:

NOTE: The Board of Trustees (Board) of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas will not consider or act upon any item before the Audit, Compliance and Ethics Committee (Committee) at this meeting of the Committee. This meeting is not a regular meeting of the Board. However, because the full Audit, Compliance and Ethics Committee constitutes a quorum of the Board, the meeting of the Committee is also being posted as a meeting of the Board out of an abundance of caution.

- (i) Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) Program Tammie Wells and Shannon Gosewehr
- (ii) IT Contract Oversight Tammie Wells and Chris Cutler
- B. Update on Prior Audit Recommendations Amanda Jenami
- C. Review of Cyber Controls Chris Cutler, Kristi Glasgall; and Troy Dearing, Kudelski Security.
- D. Audit of MyTRS Stephen Randall and Adam Fambrough.
- 9. Discuss or consider Internal Audit and TRS Compliance administrative reports and matters related to governance, risk management, internal control, compliance violations, fraud, regulatory reviews or investigations, fraud risk areas, audits for the annual internal audit plan, or auditors' ability to perform duties – Robert H. Walls, Jr., Amanda Jenami and Heather Traeger

NOTE: The Board of Trustees (Board) of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas will not consider or act upon any item before the Audit, Compliance and Ethics Committee (Committee) at this meeting of the Committee. This meeting is not a regular meeting of the Board. However, because the full Audit, Compliance and Ethics Committee constitutes a quorum of the Board, the meeting of the Committee is also being posted as a meeting of the Board out of an abundance of caution.

Minutes of the Audit, Compliance and Ethics Committee July 14, 2023

The Audit, Compliance and Ethics Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas met on July 14, 2023, in the boardroom located on the Fifth Floor in the East Building of TRS' offices located at 1000 Red River Street, Austin, Texas, 78701.

Committee members present:

Mr. Robert H. Walls, Jr., Chair Ms. Brittny Allred Mr. Michael Ball Ms. Nanette Sissney Mr. Elvis Williams

Other TRS Board Members present:

Mr. David Corpus Mr. John Elliott Mr. Jarvis Hollingsworth Mr. James Dick Nance

Others who participated:

Brian Guthrie, TRS Andrew Roth, TRS Don Green, TRS Heather Traeger, TRS Amanda Jenami, TRS Katrina Daniel, TRS Barbie Pearson Katherine Farrell, TRS Chris Bowlin, TRS Falguni Sampat, TRS Falguni Sampat, TRS Nathan Ward, TRS Brad Gilbert, TRS Jonathan O'Reilly, TRS Monica Bernal, TRS Suzanne Dugan, Cohen Milstein Michael Clayton, SAO

Audit, Compliance and Ethics Committee Chair, Mr. Moss, called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

1. Call roll of Committee members.

Ms. Farrell called the roll. A quorum was present.

2. Consider the approval of the proposed minutes of the April 2023 Audit, Compliance and Ethics Committee meeting – Chair Robert H. Walls, Jr.

On a motion by Mr. Ball, seconded by Mr. Williams, the committee unanimously voted to approve the proposed minutes for the April 2023 Audit, Compliance and Ethics Committee meeting as presented.

- 3. Receive SAO's Presentations Mr. Michael Clayton
 - A. Results of the Audit of TRS' Fiscal Year 2021 Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB); and
 - B. Employer Pension Liability Allocation Schedules

Mr. Michael Clayton stated four separate reports were issued as part of this project. He said they issued an opinion on the pension liability schedules, an opinion on the OPEB liability schedules, a report on controls and compliance and other matters, and a legislative audit committee report that goes to the legislature. He noted the importance of these schedules for all the school districts use the numbers to record their own liabilities on their financial statements for their portion of the pension and OPEB liabilities. He reported that they issued unqualified opinions for both the Pension Liability schedules as well as the OPEB schedules.

4. Receive an overview of TRS Compliance and reports including those related to ethics and fraud, conflicts of interest, and investment policies – Heather Traeger and Chris Bowlin.

Mr. Chris Bowlin reported that there were no exceptions identified in the quarterly testing on board reporting requirements, the investment policy statement (IPS) as well as the proxy voting policy and security lending policies. He said IMD self-reported three IIQ related issues this quarter involving the failure to obtain the IIQ certificate or signature prior to the deal approval or deal vote. He stated satisfactory IIQs were ultimately obtained for all of the deals and that additional checks were put in place to catch this going forward.

Ms. Heather Traeger reported on the conflicts of interest, and that there was one 541C. She said the vendor reported a conflict that is being worked through. She stated there were five hotline reports during the last quarter, two related to the same item. She said all of the allegations related to improper conduct that were investigated by Legal and Compliance and OE were determined to be unsubstantiated claims.

Ms. Traeger concluded by providing an introductory overview of the Compliance program at TRS.

5. Receive Internal Audit reports:

A. Review of Reporting Employer Processes – Amanda Jenami, Falguni Sampat and Mark Chi.

Ms. Amanda Jenami provided an overview of the audit noting the objective was to determine if the Benefit Reporting team has sufficient processes to ensure that reporting employer reports are submitted accurately, efficiently, and timely in compliance with relevant TRS requirements. She said the team did not examine the reporting employers' (REs) processes but focused on Benefit Reporting's processes and how they facilitate reporting by over 1,300 employers. She said that even with limitations, the team's processes provide reasonable assurance that reports are submitted accurately and in compliance with TRS requirements. She said some strengths as well as opportunities for improvement were identified. Ms. Falguni Sampat reviewed further recommendations identified by the audit such as proactive interaction with the larger portion of REs who are not contacting TRS and to have more targeted RE training.

Mr. Mark Chi provided management's response. He said they agreed with recommendations and are examining ways to address the issues.

B. Review of External Public Portfolio Operations – Nathan Ward and Brad Gilbert.

Mr. Nathan Ward provided an overview of External Public Portfolio Operations noting the portfolio accounts for almost a quarter of the Trust assets. He reported this was a very positive audit with a very good report for EPU and EP operations as a whole. He commented the group was very process driven which showed in terms of the procedures that they followed and their documentation standards. He said the recommendation was to improve the documentation related to when short sales are transferred to TRS.

Mr. Brad Gilbert provided management's response. He stated they have robust processes that are important in order for them to operate efficiently and effectively. He said they had already implemented the recommendation.

C. Prior Audit Recommendations – Amanda Jenami.

Ms. Jenami reported 35 recommendations that management has implemented, and Internal Audit still has to verify implementation. She noted all recommendations are fairly current, 26 are within the one-to-twelve-month age range.

D. Analysis of Healthcare Services Covered Outside of Eligibility Period – Jonathan O'Reilly and Monica Bernal

At 9:04 a.m., Chair Walls announced the committee would go into executive session regarding Agenda Item 5D under Section 825.115(d) to discuss the analysis of health care services covered outside of the eligibility period, and under Section 551.071 to consult with legal counsel as needed.

At 9:48 a.m., Chair Walls reconvened the committee in public.

7. Discuss or consider Internal Audit and TRS Compliance administrative reports and matters related to governance, risk management, internal control, compliance violations, fraud, regulatory reviews or investigations, fraud risk areas, audits for the annual internal audit plan, or auditors' ability to perform duties – Robert H. Walls, Jr., Amanda Jenami and Heather Traeger. Ms. Jenami provided an update on Internal Audit's key performance indicators (KPIs). She reported they are either exceeding or meeting 14 of the 15 performance targets. The area they are not meeting, she said, was regarding staff retention.

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Approved by the Audit, Compliance and Ethics Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas on September _____, 2023.

Robert H. Walls, Jr. Chair, Audit, Compliance and Ethics Committee Board of Trustees Teacher Retirement System of Texas Date



Internal Audit

Audit, Compliance & Ethics Committee Meeting

Re

September 15, 2023



The Audit of the

Teacher Retirement System's Financial Statements for FY 2023 (ACFR)



Audit Objectives and Scope

For the fiscal year ended August 31, 2023, the objectives of our audit are as follows:

Basic Financial Statements

September 15, 2023

 To obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

• Report on Internal Controls

 To report on any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting and compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements based on an audit of financial statements performed in accordance with the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards.



• Audit Objectives and Scope (Continued)

September 15, 2023

Included in this engagement for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2023:

- Schedule of Employer's Proportionate Share of Pension Liabilities
 - To obtain reasonable assurance about whether the System's Schedule of Employer's Proportionate Shares (Allocations) and the totals for all entities of the columns titled net pension liability end of year, total deferred outflows, total deferred inflows, and pension expense included in the Schedule of Pension Amounts by Employer of the System Pension Plan (Pension Schedules) and related notes to the schedules are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

• Schedule of Employer's Proportionate Share of OPEB Liabilities

 To obtain reasonable assurance about whether the System's Schedule of Employer's Proportionate Shares (Allocations) of the Collective Net Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Liability, and the total for all entities of the columns titled net OPEB liability end of year, total deferred outflows, total deferred inflows, and total OPEB expense included in the Schedule of Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Amounts by Employer of the System (OPEB Schedules) and related notes to the schedules are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.



 Audit Objectives and Scope (Continued)
 Our work will include the automated systems and processes that support the functions being audited at the System. We will conduct the audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. The audit scope is financial activity for fiscal year 2023.



Presentation to the TRS Board of Trustees September 15, 2023

> THE REPORT RELEASE IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 20, 2023.

Timing and Deliverables

- We are currently gaining an understanding of the System's processes and will begin substantive testing before October 2023.
- We plan to use Internal Audit for certain testing.
- We will release our audit report at the conclusion of the audit.
- The Pension and OPEB Schedules work will be performed separately in the spring 2024, with an anticipated release date early June 2024.



Smart decisions. Lasting value.™

TRS Investment Company (TRICOT)

Audit Committee Presentation Michelle Buss September 15, 2023



Agenda

- 1 Introductions
- 2 Audit Plan
- **3** Other Required Communications
- 4 Questions

Introductions

Crowe Engagement Team



Kevin W. Smith Partner



Michelle Buss Senior Manager



Ben Levy Senior Staff

Crowe Client Service Team

Role	Name	Definition of Role
Audit Partner	Kevin W. Smith Kevin.w.smith@crowe.com (214) 777-5208	Kevin will work with our engagement team to understand your expectations and ensure that your needs are met through the delivery of our services. Additionally, he serves as the partner signing our report on your financial statements.
Audit Senior Manager	Michelle Buss Michelle.buss@crowe.com (214) 777-5216	Michelle will oversee the execution of the audit, focusing on overseeing accounting and financial reporting matters.
Audit In- Charge	Ben Levy Benjamin.levy@crowe.com (469) 250-3145	Ben will lead the engagement team in the day-to- day execution of the audit plan.

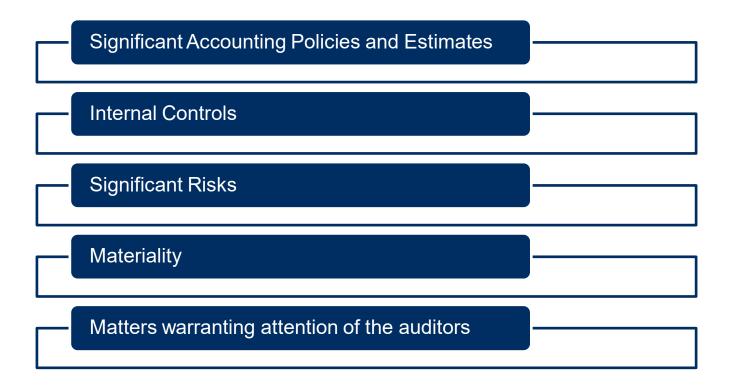
Audit Plan

Audit Plan - Timeline for Delivery of Services

Dates	Task
September 2023	Planning and interim fieldwork.
September 15, 2023	Communication of audit plan to audit committee.
October 2, 2023 – October 23, 2023	Crowe to perform final fieldwork.
October 31, 2023	Planned opinion date.
December 2023	Presentation to audit committee.

F

Audit Plan - Scope



Other Required Communications

- Independence
- Other information
- SAS 99 related to fraud

Questions?



Thank You

Kevin W. Smith

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Michelle Buss

Phone +1 214 777 5216 Cell +1 817 291 7578 <u>Michelle.Buss@crowe.com</u>

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Internal Audit

Quarterly Compliance Testing

Heather Traeger & Chris Bowlin

September 15, 2023

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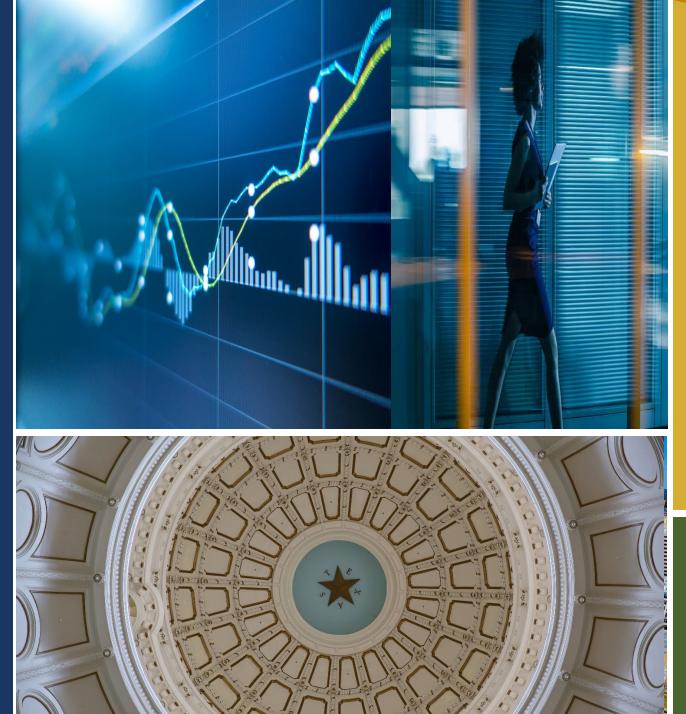
Quarterly Investment Compliance Testing Investment Policy Statement (IPS) and Securities Lending Policy (SLP) Quarter ending June 30, 2023

Procedures Performed	Test Results		
Business Objective 1: Board Reports			
All required information is reported to the TRS Board of Trustees			
Obtain evidence that all requirements reported to Board of Trustees	All reporting requirements were met		
Trace sample information included in Board reports to supporting documentation	Documentation provided supported information tested		
Business Objective 2: Investment Selection and Approval			
Investments made are within delegated limits and established selection criteria			
• Obtain evidence that (i) Investment Integrity Questionnaires (IIQs) were received prior to investment authorization and deal closing; (ii) IIQs were not stale (less than 90 days old) at the time of authorization and/or closing	Each investment tested had a completed questionnaire prior to IIC date		
Obtain evidence that IMD evaluated hedge fund classification	A hedge fund analysis was included in IIC materials for all investments tested		
Obtain evidence that approved investments were within policy limits	 For Private and Public Markets investments tested, no manager or partner organization exceeded the authorized limits¹ and verified term sheet calculations with manager exposure file. 		
Business Objective 3: Other (IPS, SLP, other reporting)			
Risk limits are followed for other investment and proxy voting policies and procedures were followed			
Obtain senior management disclosure about known compliance violations	Obtained quarterly compliance certification from IMD IIC and Legal		
Obtain evidence that TRS securities lending program complied with the guidelines	No security lending violations were identified		
Obtain evidence that all board serving requirements are met.	All reporting requirements were met, and documentation provided supported information tested		
Obtain evidence that Restricted Securities lists updated and reports filed	Restricted Securities lists were timely updated and reports filed		

¹ One investment received Board approval for an initial allocation over 0.5% of the Total Fund Value as authorized under Appendix B of the Investment Policy Statement.

Legend:

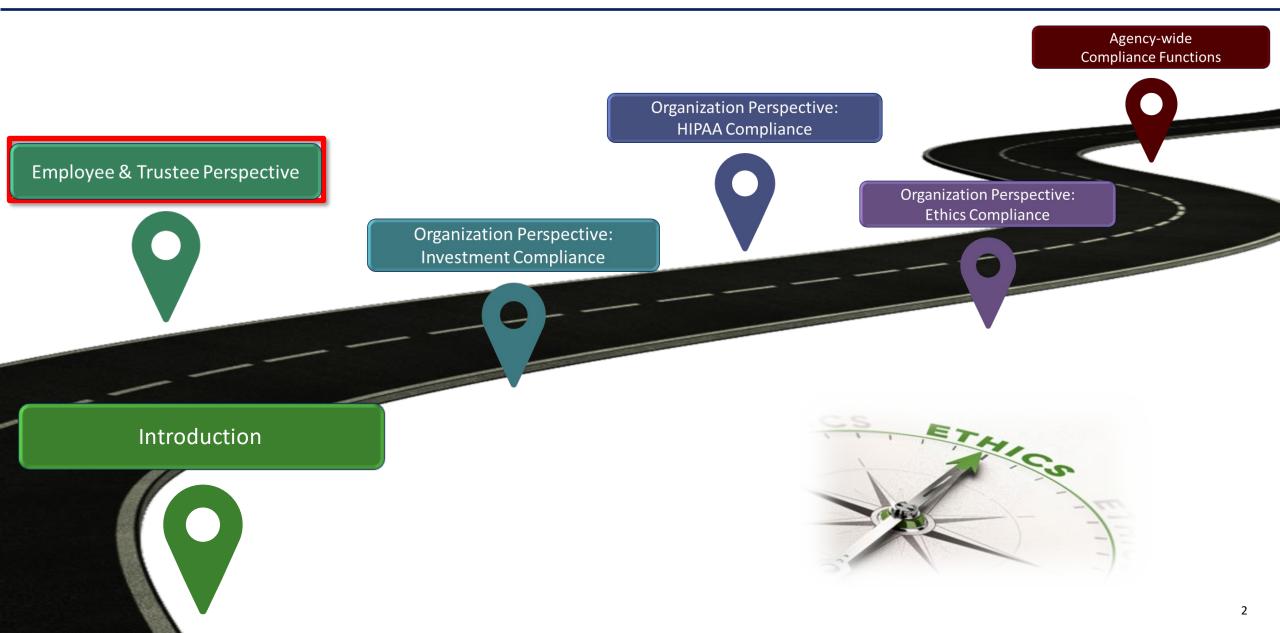




TRS Compliance & Ethics Overview: Employee and Trustee Perspective

TRS Compliance September 2023

TRS Compliance & Ethics – Information Session Roadmap



Compliance Team



Heather Traeger

General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer



Elena Barreiro

Compliance Officer



Chris Bowlin

Sr. Compliance Counsel



Adam Costa

Sr. Compliance Officer



Compliance Counsel





Compliance Officer

Carlos Montoya

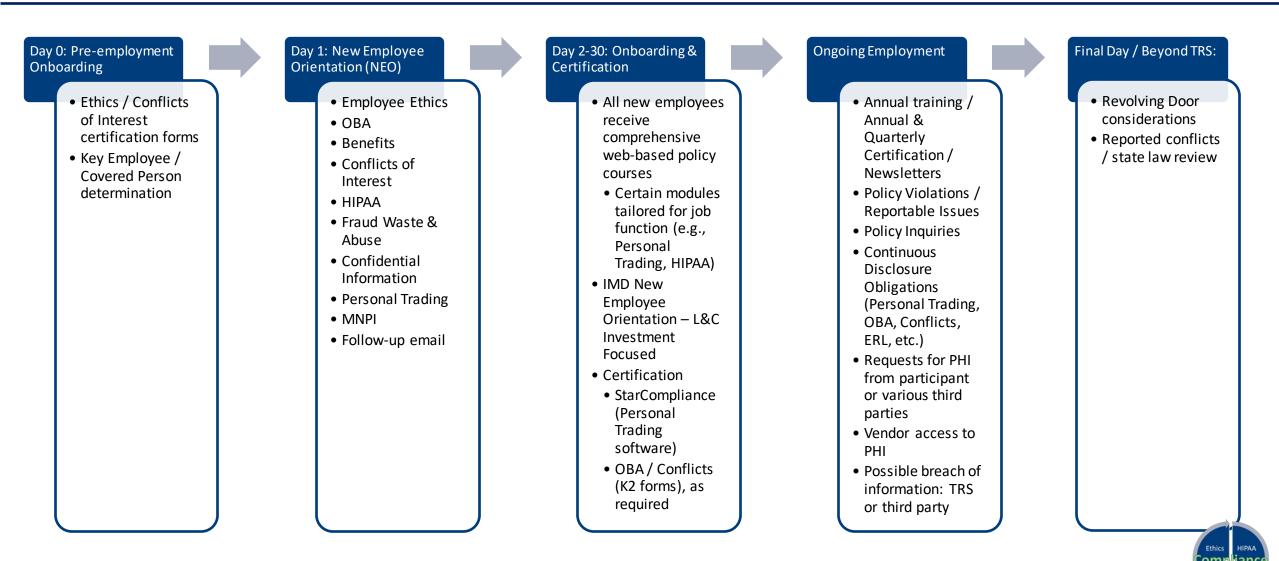


MaryEllen O'Neill Privacy Officer & Compliance Counsel





Compliance from the Employee Perspective





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Employee Perspective – Training & Certification Requirements

Employee Training Scope and Sequence

- March:
 - o Employee Ethics Policy Training
- April:
 - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Training Enhanced
 - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Training General
- October:
 - o Fraud, Waste, & Abuse (Bi-annually)
- November:
 - Personal Trading Policy Training: General
 - Personal Trading Policy Training: Covered Persons

Certifications

- January, April, July, October: Personal Trading Quarterly Holdings Certification for Covered Persons (including all IMD)
- March, June, September, December: Quarterly Compliance Certification for IMD IIC and Legal Investments
- April:
 - Employee & Non-TRS Workers Annual Ethics Compliance Certification (Logic Manager)
 - Key Employees Annual Ethics Compliance Certification



Trustee Perspective - Training & Certification Requirements

- Daily / Business as Usual •
 - Trustee Ethics Policy
- Monthly ٠
 - Contracting Conflicts Compliance (SB65)
 - TRS Board Procurement Policy Reporting
- Quarterly •
 - Assistance with Personal Investment Provisions (Restricted Contractors List)
 - Board Reporting
- Annually •
 - o Trustee Annual Certification and Training
 - Trustee Personal Financial Statement Ο







Trustee Perspective – Board Reports

- Compliance reports:
 - o Ethics Hotline reports
 - Employee Conflicts Disclosures (TRS 541E)
 - Contractor Conflicts Disclosure (TRS 541C)
 - o IPS and Ethics-related policies violations
 - o Compliance KPIs
 - Complaints report (Provided to Ombuds)
 - o Quarterly Compliance Testing
 - o Assistance with IMD Transparency Report
 - IIQ report review (quarterly) (monitoring pay-to-play and improper influence)
 - Key Employees report (annually)
 - Proxy Reports / Sec Lending Reports (monitoring actions inconsistent with TRS policy)





Policies that TRS Compliance reviews or assists with the review:

Employee Policies

- Ethics Policies:
 - o Employee Ethics Policy
 - o Fraud, Waste & Abuse Policy
 - Key Employee Determination Resolution
- HIPAA Policies:
 - o HIPAA Privacy Rule
 - o HIPAA Security Rule
- Investment Compliance Policies:
 - o TRS Personal Trading Policy
 - o General Authority Resolution

Trustee Policies:

- o Board Procurement Policy
- Board Training Policy
- o Board of Trustees Ethics Policy
- Board of Trustees External Communications
- Bylaws of the Board of Trustees
- Investment Policies:
 - o Investment Policy Statement
 - Securities Lending Policy
 - o Proxy Voting Policy
 - Commission Credit Policy

- Agencywide Policies:
 - Confidential Information
 Procedures & Standards
 - o Confidentiality Policy
 - o Incident Response Plan (IRP)
 - Information Security Procedures & Standards (ISPS)
 - o Litigation Policy
 - Resolution Regarding Correction of Errors & Other Edits
 - o Social Media Policy
 - o TRICOT Policies



Internal Audit

Update on IA's Data Analytics Program

Jonathan O'Reilly Director of Business Intelligence for Internal Audit

September 15, 2023



Business Intelligence Overview

Leverage data to:

- Guide Internal Audit's areas of focus
- Inform scoping of audits
- Help our clients identify and address potential risks





Mine data to test for risk:

- Exceptions to business process
- Data integrity
- Data synchronization
- Vendor contract compliance



Personnel Changes

- Director of Business Intelligence (filled March 2023)
- Senior Business Intelligence Analyst (departed May 2023)

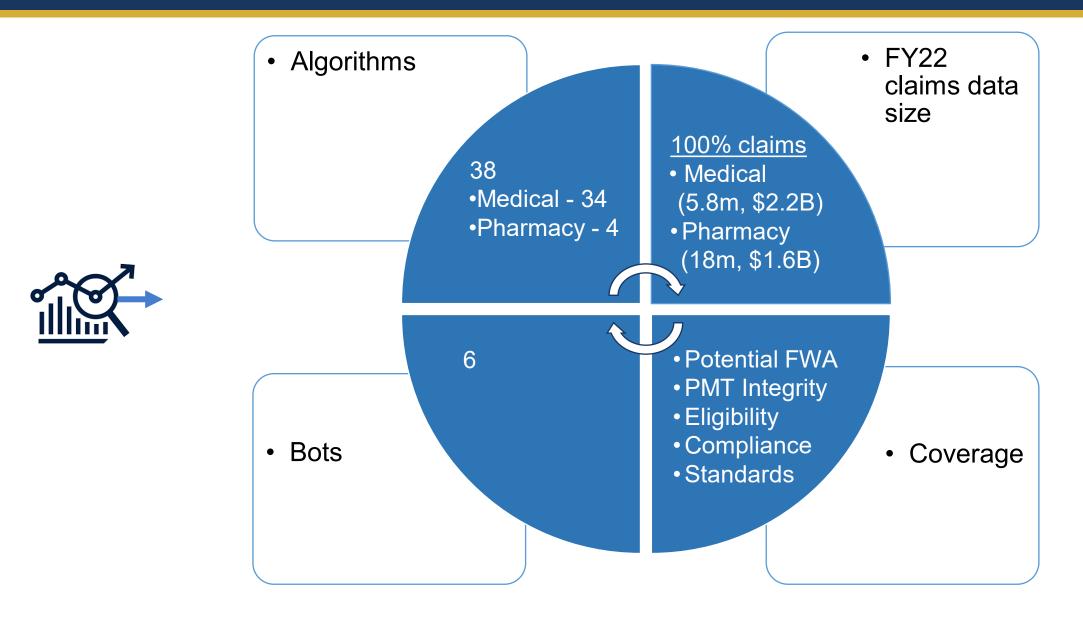




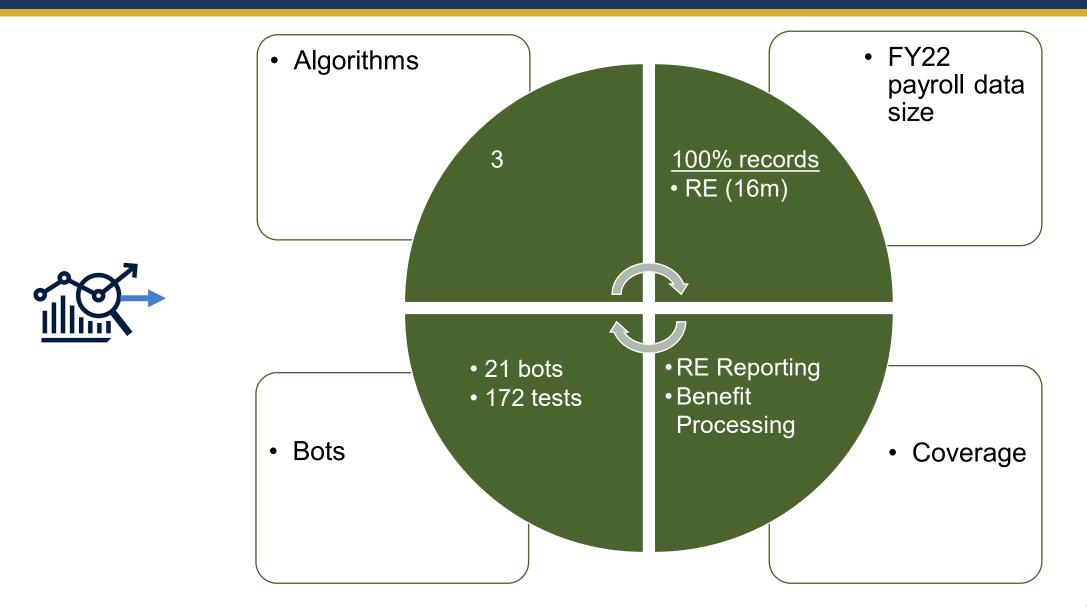
By the Numbers



Healthcare Claims Data Analytics – Work Performed



Benefit Services Data Analytics – Work Performed



Healthcare Claims Data Analytics – Project Examples



Examples



RX Carrier

- 41k services population
- 341 excluded drugs considered
- Exceptions justified by clinical review and prior authorization based on medical need.

Compound RXs RX Carrier

- 29k services population
- No risk areas: adherence to exclusion list; emerging high-cost compounds; unusual pharmacy types.



- 1M services population
- 16 types of preventive services
- Testing for policy limitations
- Exceptions undergoing carrier review.



Medical Carrier

- 5,969 services population
- 53 COVID-related service codes
- Exceptions undergoing carrier review.

Process Improvement

- Enhanced reporting process
- Strengthened relationships with vendors
- Improved internal documentation
- Enhanced risk assessment and project planning process



Business Intelligence Project Planning



Research and Data Exploration

28 potential project ideas

14 ideas vetted

Client feedback

11 Selected

FY24 Projects at-a-Glance



Health Care

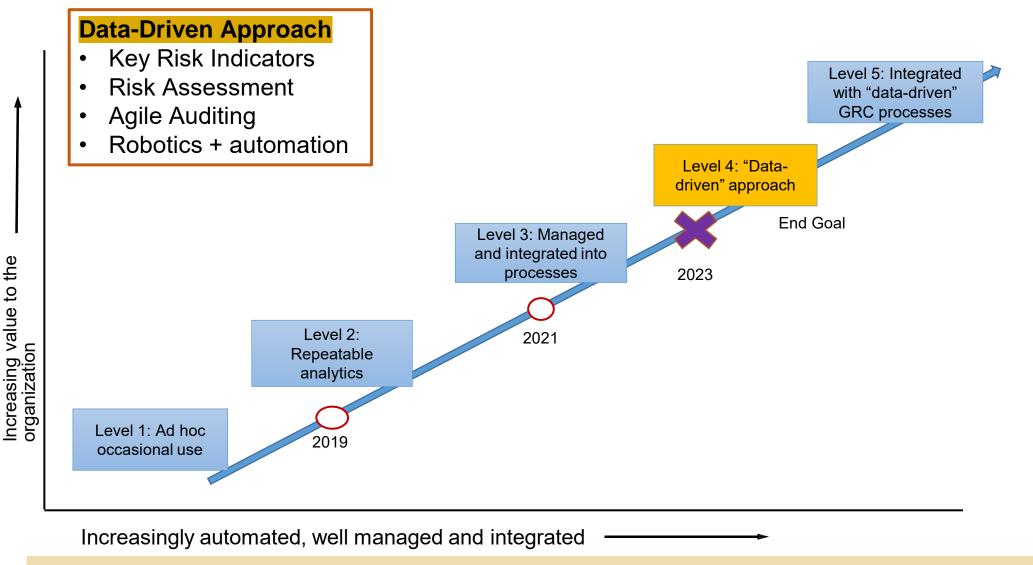
Stronger focus on Vendor Contract Compliance

- Key business processes at risk from RX carrier change
- Claim payments outside of policy limitations





Data Analytics Maturity Model & Progress



Working towards future focused auditing ——



Jonathan O'Reilly Director of Business Intelligence

Business Intelligence Team



Teklehaimanot Derseh Senior Business Intelligence Analyst



Olga Jerman Senior Business Intelligence Analyst

Questions





Internal Audit

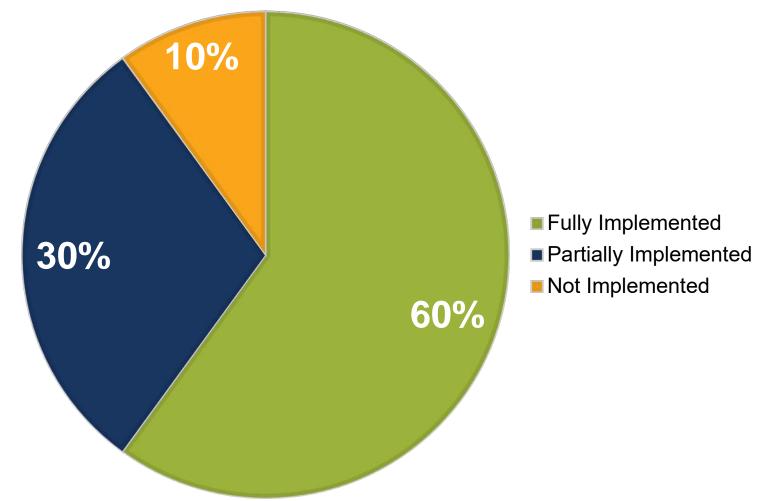
Follow-up Reviews of HUB Program and IT Contract Oversight

Tammie Wells, Shannon Gosewehr and Chris Cutler

September 15, 2023



There has been significant improvement in the Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) program since the initial audit, *Review of HUB Program*, which was issued in March 2021. The implementation status of the <u>ten</u> prior recommendations is illustrated in the chart below.

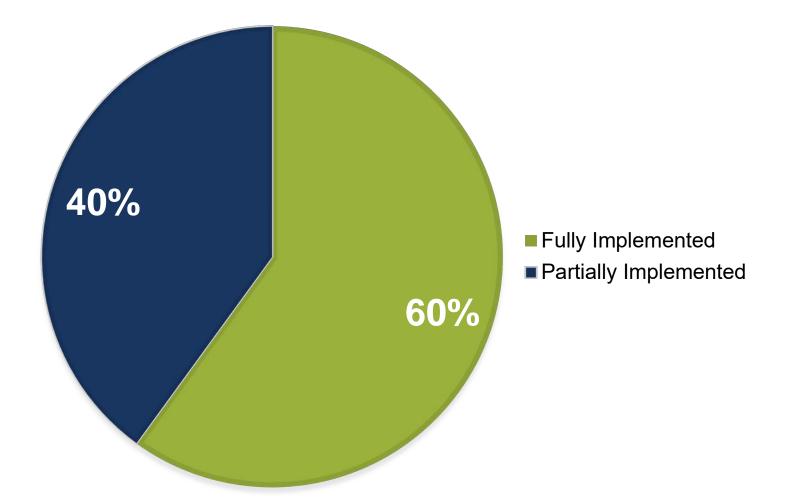


Detailed Results: Review of the HUB Program

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Fully Implemented	Partially Implemented	Management Responses
Development of:	 Implement enhanced documentation, tracking, and 	Procurement and Contracts is developing a reconciliation process to determine if the outreach efforts are effective.
HUB policy	periodic effectiveness reviews of outreach activities.	Implementation Date: January 2024
HUB Program Manual		
Strategic Plan	 Monitor HUB Subcontracting Plans and monthly Progress Assessment Reports more closely. 	Procurement and Contracts is developing a new workflow on the PAVES contract record to include the HUB Coordinator, who will create a deliverable for the monthly PAR forms in
 Job aid on how to locate HUB vendors 		PAVES.
Enhanced vendor outreach		Implementation Date: January 2024
through:	 Enhance the HUB Vendor Outreach Program by increasing 	A candidate for the HUB Coordinator position is in the background screening process.
 Increased HUB outreach tools 	the level of resources devoted to the HUB Program.	Implementation Date: September 2023
Enhancements to the HUB	Not Implemented	
webpage	 Implement a quality control process to improve the accuracy of reporting. 	Procurement and Contracts is creating a monthly report in PAVES to ensure all the required data is reported correctly. This will replace the previous quality control process.
		Implementation Date: January 2024

There have been significant improvements in the Information Technology (IT) contract oversight processes since the initial audit, *IT Contract Oversight*, which was issued in April 2022. The implementation status of the <u>five</u> prior recommendations is illustrated in the chart below.



Detailed Results: Review of IT Contract Oversight

Fully Implemented	Partially Implemented	Management Responses
 Development of: IT Contract Management & Oversight procedures Checklist for supervisory reviews Enhanced risk assessment process through: Documented policies and procedures 	 Align contract monitoring efforts with key contract requirements to ensure vendor compliance. 	 Contract training and demonstrations were provided to all IT contract managers regarding the process changes implemented. Beginning September 2023, IT contract oversight will include: Utilization of PAVES for entry of contract deliverables and automated reminders of upcoming deliverables as well as reminders of those that are past due Utilization of the PAVES Deliverables Report by IT Business Administrators to monitor IT Contract Deliverables, and Contract management supervisory reviews.
 Inclusion of weighted and scored risk factors 	Strengthen invoice review processes to ensure invoices are accurate and charges are billed in accordance with the contract requirements.	 Training will continue to be provided to the Contract Managers. A PAVES enhancement is being tested, and once implemented, will provide an invoice review checklist within the PAVES Invoice Module. The Contract Management Supervisory Reviews will be initiated in September 2023. Target Implementation Date: March 2024





Tammie Wells, CIA, CFE Director, Operations Audit Services

Operations Audit Team



Falguni Sampat, MBA Auditor





Internal Audit

Proposed Audit Plan Fiscal Year 2024

Amanda Jenami, CPA, CIA, CIA, CISA, CIDA, CFSA, CHIAP, CRMA, CFE

September 15, 2023







Internal Audit

Proposed Audit Plan Fiscal Year 2024

Amanda Jenami, CPA, CIA, CIA, CISA, CIDA, CFSA, CHIAP, CRMA, CFE

September 15, 2023



Risk Assessment & Audit Planning Approach

Internal Audit identified areas of risk and potential projects from: interviews of TRS trustees, executives and staff, the current TRS Risk Assessment developed by the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) team and risk assessment surveys from prior years.

This information was combined into an overall audit plan designed to address critical risks to achieving TRS objectives while being sensitive to operational requirements. The Audit Plan also includes hours for ad hoc projects and special requests. The following approach was taken in creating the Audit Plan:

Information Gathering and Scoping	Risk Analysis	Development and Vetting of Proposed Audit Plan	Next Steps
 A. Gained understanding of industry trends and current environmental risks through training, publications, and discussions with chief audit executives at peer institutions B. Reviewed technical guidance from GASB and AICPA to identify changes to audit and accounting requirements C. Gained understanding of TRS' strategic objectives and key initiatives by reading the strategic plan D. Updated audit universe based upon changes in organizational structure, information from TEAM, and input from staff 	 A. Interviewed trustees, members of the TRS executive team, and staff to obtain various points of view on risks B. Reviewed previous surveys of executives and selected leadership team members on their assessment of risk in the categories of fraud, compliance, materiality, complexity, suspected concerns, and emerging risks C. Reviewed latest ERM Stoplight Report for the Risk Oversight Committee's perception of key areas of risk 	 A. Developed a proposed Audit Plan based on interviews, risk assessments, resource availability, budget, and division coverage B. Discussed proposed Audit Plan with the Risk Oversight Committee/Executive Council 	 A. Review and discuss the proposed Audit Plan with the Audit, Compliance and Ethics (ACE) Committee B. Obtain ACE Committee recommendation and TRS Board approval of Audit Plan

Types of Projects to Cover Risk Areas

An important part of the Audit Plan is that the identified processes, systems, and initiatives should receive differing types and levels of review based on their importance, perceived risk, and most efficient approach. Our suggested levels of review activities are as follows:

Audit

- Audit Focus: Assess evidence available in order to provide assurance on an audit objective
- Deliverable: Audit report for public distribution unless protected by statute
- Estimated level of effort per project: 600 1,600 hours

Agreed-Upon Procedures

- Agreed-Upon Procedures Focus: Determine specific steps to test with management's agreement and report on results; used for data analytics and quarterly testing of specific data and transactions
- Deliverable: Agreed-upon procedures report for public distribution (use is limited to those with understanding of procedures performed)
- Estimated level of effort per project: 100 600 hours

Formal Consulting

- Consulting Focus: Respond to requests for formal study or assessment with recommendations; no assurance provided
- Deliverable: Consulting report or memo for limited distribution; significant material weaknesses identified would be reported to executive management and the Audit Committee as required by professional auditing standards
- Estimated level of effort per project: 100 600 hours

Informal Consulting (Advisory)

- Advisory Focus: Participate in activities in a non-voting capacity, e.g., provide training and input on policies and procedures
- Deliverable: Verbal discussion or a brief memo to management
- Estimated level of effort per year: 10 100 hours

Audit Plan: Key Audits for FY2024

Title	Risk Rating	Last Audited	Preliminary Scope	Timing
Talent Continuity	•	2019	Determine whether TRS processes have sufficient controls to ensure that talent acquisition, retention and employee separations are accomplished effectively, efficiently and in compliance with applicable requirements.	Q3
IMD Contract Oversight	•	N/A	Determine whether IMD contract oversight activities include sufficient controls to ensure IMD goals are accomplished effectively, efficiently and in compliance with applicable requirements	Q2
Audit of Vulnerability Remediation and Patch Management	•	N/A	Determine whether policies, procedures, and practices provide reasonable assurance that security updates are patched timely, and vulnerabilities are remediated or mitigated effectively.	Q1
Audit of the Cybersecurity Incident Response Program	•	N/A	Determine whether TRS Cybersecurity Incident Response Program aligns with industry standards and is operating effectively.	Q2



4

Audit Plan: Key Audits for FY2024 (Continued)

Title	Risk Rating	Last Audited	Preliminary Scope	Timing
Review of Cyber Controls		2023	Perform a vulnerability assessment and penetration test of TRS's information technology infrastructure.	Q3 – Q4
Healthcare Claims Data Analysis		2022	Analyze medical and pharmacy claims for appropriate provider billing and compliance with regulations and TRS plan policies and alignment with health care industry standards.	Q1 - Q4
Review of Risk Parity Operations	\bigcirc	N/A	Determine whether Risk Parity portfolio operations include sufficient controls to ensure investments are made and managed effectively, efficiently and in compliance with relevant policies, guidelines and procedures.	Q3 - Q4
SB 827 (Insulin Cost-Sharing)	\bigcirc	N/A	Analyze pharmacy claims processed by TRS plan administrators for compliance with SB 827	Q1

High Risk Areas are defined as (High, Elevated, or Caution). Areas of interest to the SAO (e.g. Procurement and IT Security) that are not included in the Audit Plan.

Area	Reason for Exclusion
Records and Information Management	The area was audited in FY2022. Internal Audit plans to perform a follow-up review when the audit recommendations are fully implemented, around FY2026.

The Proposed FY2024 Audit Plan seeks to maintain a good balance between Assurance and Advisory Projects

Business Area	FY2020 Audit Plan Projects		Audit PlanAudit Plan			FY2023 Plan Pro		Proposed FY2024 Plan Projects		
	Audits	Advisory	Audit	Advisory	Audits	Advisory	Audits	Advisory	Audits	Advisory
Exec & Finance	2	3	4	1	5	2	5	2	4	2
Benefit Services	4	1	3	1	3	2	4	1	2	1
Healthcare	2	2	2	2	3	0	5	1	3	2
IMD	4	1	4	1	4	1	3	2	4	2
Technology /TEAM	3	5	3	5	4	4	4	4	4	1
Total	15 (56%)	12 (44%)	16 (62%)	10 (38%)	19 (68%)	9 (32%)	21 (68%)	10 (32%)	17 (68%)	8 (32%)

September 2023 Board Audit, Compliance and Ethics Committee Meeting

Appendix

Detailed Audit Plan by Area

Title	Туре	Preliminary Scope	Timing
ACFR testing of annuity payments	Audit	Conduct pension benefits testing on behalf of the State Auditor's Office (SAO) to be used in completion of the ACFR audit.	Q1
IMD Contract Oversight	Audit	Determine whether IMD contract oversight activities include sufficient controls to ensure IMD goals are accomplished effectively, efficiently and in compliance with applicable requirements.	Q2
Talent Continuity	Audit	Determine whether TRS processes have sufficient controls to ensure that talent acquisition, retention and employee separations are accomplished effectively, efficiently and in compliance with applicable requirements.	Q3
Follow-Up of Prior Audits	Audit	Determine whether management has implemented recommendations from prior audits.	Q1 - Q4
Special Requests and Emerging Issues	Advisory	Set aside time to address special requests and emerging issues during the year as requested by management.	Q1 - Q4
Meetings Participation	Advisory	Participate (non-voting) in various TRS-wide meetings such as Executive Council, Leadership Team, and Strategy and Risk Oversight Committee.	Q1 - Q4

Audit Plan: Pension Benefits and Reporting Employers

Title	Туре	Preliminary Scope	Timing
Pension Refund Processes	Audit	Determine whether TRS processes include sufficient controls to ensure pension refunds are performed effectively, efficiently, and in compliance with applicable requirements.	Q1
Reporting Employer Data Analysis	Continuous Audit	Analyze Reporting Employer data within TRUST system for completeness, integrity, accuracy, and reasonableness.	Q1 - Q4
Benefits Testing	Reserve	Recalculate a sample of annual benefit payments and agree to the supporting documentation on file. Scope in other tests related to benefits.	Q1 - Q4
Special Requests and Emerging Issues	Advisory	Set aside time to address special requests and emerging issues during the year as requested by management.	Q1 - Q4

Title	Туре	Preliminary Scope	Timing
SB 827 (Insulin Cost- Sharing)	Audit	Analyze pharmacy claims processed by TRS plan administrators for compliance with SB 827.	Q1
Formulary Testing	Advisory	Test the application of the customized formulary as implemented by the new pharmacy carrier.	Q1
Healthcare Claims Data Analysis	Continuous Audit	Analyze medical and pharmacy claims for appropriate provider billing and compliance with regulations and TRS plan policies and alignment with health care industry standards.	Q1 – Q4
Healthcare Claims Data Analysis	Continuous Audit	Analyze medical and pharmacy claims processed by TRS plan administrators for compliance with contract requirements.	Q1 – Q4
Special Requests and Emerging Issues	Advisory	Set aside time to address special requests and emerging issues during the year, as requested by management.	Q1 - Q4

Audit Plan: Investment Management

Title	Туре	Preliminary Scope	Timing
Review of Multi-Asset Trade Operations (MATO)	Audit	Determine whether activities related to processing and settlement of investment trades and management of cash, margin and collateral include sufficient controls to ensure activities are managed and conducted effectively, efficiently and in compliance with relevant policies, guidelines and procedures.	Q1 – Q2
Review of Risk Parity Operations	Audit	Determine whether Risk Parity portfolio operations include sufficient controls to ensure investments are made and managed effectively, efficiently and in compliance with relevant policies, guidelines and procedures.	Q2– Q3
Emerging Manager Program	Audit	Determine whether activities related to the Emerging Managers Program include sufficient controls to ensure activities are managed and conducted effectively, efficiently and in compliance with relevant policies, guidelines and procedures.	Q3 – Q4
Innovation Portfolio Program	Audit	Determine whether activities related to the Innovation Portfolio Program include sufficient controls to ensure activities are managed and conducted effectively, efficiently and in compliance with relevant policies, guidelines and procedures.	Q3 – Q4
Investment Committee Attendance, etc.	Advisory	Stay current on portfolio strategy and Investment Management Division initiatives by attending Internal Investment Committee, monthly staff and other meetings.	Q1 – Q4
Special requests, initiatives and emerging issues	Advisory	Set aside time to address special requests, initiatives and emerging issues during the year as requested by management	Q1 – Q4

Audit Plan: Technology & TEAM

Title	Туре	Preliminary Objective	Timing
Audit of Vulnerability Remediation and Patch Management	Audit	Determine whether policies, procedures and practices provide reasonable assurance that security updates are patched timely, and vulnerabilities are remediated or mitigated effectively.	Q1
Audit of the Cybersecurity Incident Response Program	Audit	Determine whether TRS Cybersecurity Incident Response Program aligns with industry standards and is operating effectively.	Q2
Review of Cyber Controls	Audit	Perform a vulnerability assessment and penetration test of TRS' information technology infrastructure.	Q3 -Q4
TEAM Independent Program Assessment (IPA) Vendor Support	Advisory	Coordinate and facilitate activities of the IPA vendor and ensure direct access to executive management and the board.	Q1 - Q4

Appendix A:

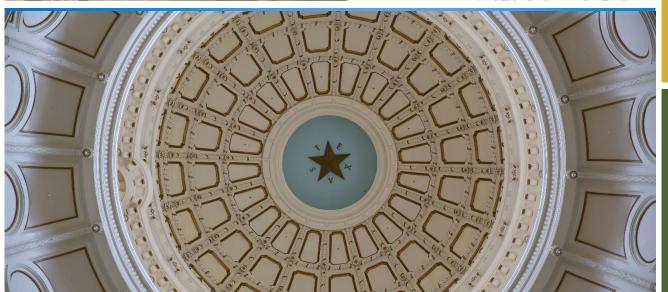
Business Intelligence Team: Proposed Projects for FY2024

Appendix A: Business Intelligence Team: Proposed Projects for FY2024

Project	Business Area	Туре	Timing
SB 827 Assurance (Insulin Cost Sharing)	HD	Assurance	Q1
Claims for Deceased Members	HD	Consulting (Vendor Compliance)	Q1-Q4
Express Scripts Eligibility Testing	HD	Consulting (Vendor Compliance)	Q1
Express Scripts Formulary Testing	HD	Consulting (Vendor Compliance)	Q1
Pension Refunds Process	Benefit Services	Consulting (Internal Process)	Q1
SAO ACFR Testing	Exec	External Consulting	Q1
Express Scripts Mislabeled Drugs Testing	HD	Consulting (Vendor Compliance)	Q2
CLIA Certification Testing	HD	Consulting (Vendor Compliance)	Q2-Q3
Employer Termination Testing	HD	Consulting (Internal Process)	Q2
HILOB Termination Testing	HD	Consulting (Internal Process)	Q3
Professional and Technical Component Testing	HD	Consulting (Vendor Compliance)	Q3
Integrated Deductible Benefit Testing	HD	Consulting (Vendor Compliance)	Q3
Talent Continuity	OE	Consulting (Internal Process)	Q3
Bilateral Services Policy Testing	HD	Consulting (Vendor Compliance)	Q4
Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Policy Testing	HD	Consulting (Vendor Compliance)	Q4

Questions





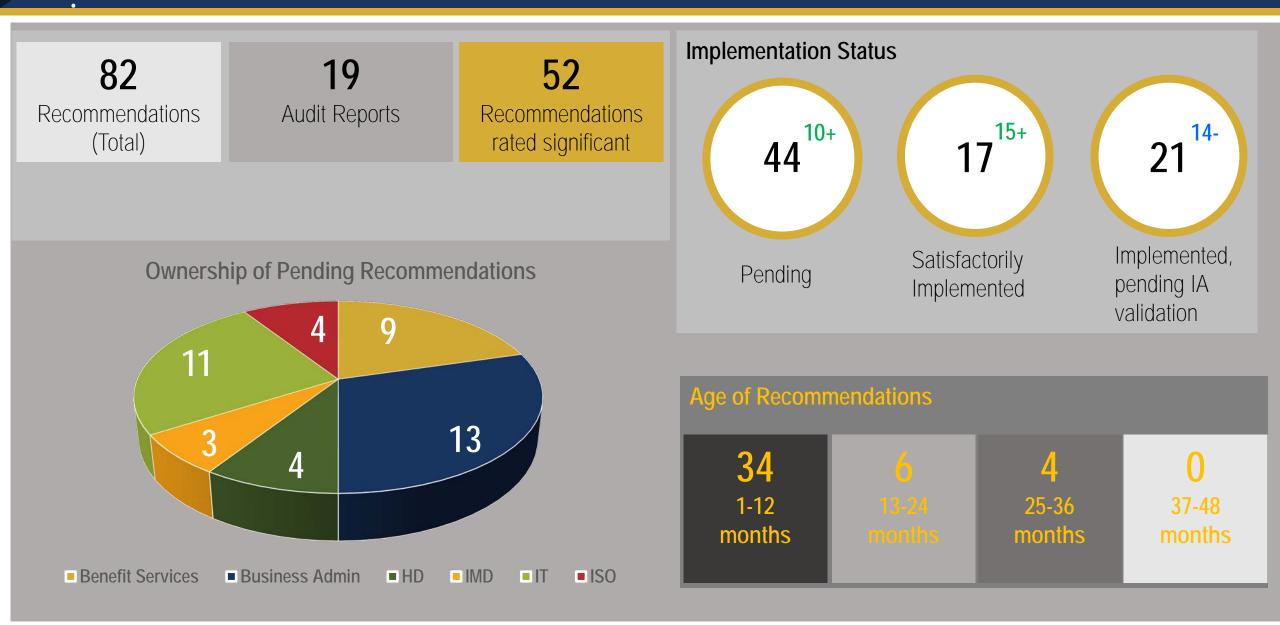
Internal Audit

Summary of Audit Recommendations As of August 28, 2023

Amanda Jenami, CPA, CIA, CISA, CIDA, CFSA

September 15, 2023





Recommendation	Status	Issue Type	Issue Date	Estimated Date	Revised / Actual Date	
19-601 Talent Management and Culture Audit						
2. Strengthen shared services alignment - (c) Performance metrics	Implemented	Significant	4/2019	12/2020	5/2022	
20-104 Review of Collections						
1.1 Strengthen death claim-related collection process	Implemented	Significant	7/2020	8/2020	11/2020	
1.2 Develop procedures for death claim-related payments and update death notification procedures	Implemented	Significant	7/2020	3/2020	8/2020	
1.3 Document and implement procedures for writing off post-death overpayments	Implemented	Significant	7/2020	3/2020	12/2020	

Significant to Business Objectives

 Past <i>original</i> estimated completion date, and No management action plan <u>or</u> no progress on management action plan
 Past <i>original</i> estimated completion date Progress on management action plan
 Original estimated completion date has not changed Progress on management action plan
• Satisfactory implementation of management action plan <u>or</u> acceptance of risk by management
• Implementation of management action plan pending Internal Audit validation

Other Reportable

 Past first <i>revised</i> estimated completion date No management action plan <u>or</u> no progress on management action plan
Past first <i>revised</i> estimated completion dateProgress on management action plan
 Within <i>original</i> or first <i>revised</i> estimated completion date Progress on management action plan
• Satisfactory implementation of management action plan <u>or</u> acceptance of risk by management

Recommendation	Status	Issue Type	Issue Date	Estimated Date	Revised / Actual Date		
20-105 Review of 1099-R Processes							
1.1 Identify and Implement Improvements to Address System Defects	Implemented	Significant	10/2020	9/2021	12/2021		
2.2 Strengthen Controls for Oversight of Vendor Performance	Implemented	Significant	10/2020	12/2020	12/2020		
20-401 Review of Accounting Operations							
3.1.i Accrual and Reporting Accuracy: ACFR - Receivables	Implemented	Significant	7/2020	9/2020	3/2021		
3.1.ii Accrual and Reporting Accuracy: ACFR - Payables	Implemented	Significant	7/2020	9/2020	3/2021		
21-202 Review of Contract Oversight (HIB)							
1.1 Strengthen contract monitoring efforts	Implemented	Significant	9/2021	2/2023	2/2023		
1.2 Assist contract managers in setting up PAVES deliverables	Implemented	Significant	9/2021	10/2021	10/2021		
1.3 Strengthen invoice review processes	Implemented	Significant	9/2021	2/2023	2/2023		
1.5 Establish and implement criteria for using SOWs	Implemented	Significant	9/2021	2/2023	2/2023		
2.1 Strengthen change control processes	Implemented	Significant	9/2021	2/2023	2/2023		
2.2 Ensure sufficient involvement of P&C	Implemented	Significant	9/2021	2/2023	2/2023		
3.1 Complete risk assessments for executed contracts	Implemented	Significant	9/2021	2/2023	2/2023		
3.2 Document the risk assessment process	Implemented	Significant	9/2021	2/2023	2/2023		

Recommendation	Status	Issue Type	Issue Date	Estimated Date	Revised / Actual Date		
21-402 Review of the HUB Program							
1.1 Implement TRS HUB Policy	Implemented	Significant	5/2021	9/2021	9/2021		
1.2 Finalize HUB Program Manual	Implemented	Significant	5/2021	9/2021	9/2021		
1.3 Develop a HUB Strategic Plan	Implemented	Significant	5/2021	9/2021	9/2021		
1.4 Implement documentation, tracking, and effective reviews of outreach activities	In Progress	Significant	5/2021	9/2021	1/2024		
1.5 Implement HUB Program Tools for TRS Staff	Implemented	Significant	5/2021	12/2021	12/2021		
1.6 Increase Number of HUB Vendor Outreach Tools	Implemented	Significant	5/2021	9/2021	9/2021		
1.7 Increase the HUB Program Resources	In Progress	Significant	5/2021	9/2021	9/2023		
1.8 Enhance TRS HUB Webpage	Implemented	Significant	5/2021	9/2021	9/2021		
2.1 Monitor HUB Subcontracting Plans and Monthly Progress Assessment Reports	In Progress	Other Reportable	5/2021	7/2021	1/2024		
2.2 Implement quality control process to improve the accuracy of reporting	In Progress	Other Reportable	5/2021	5/2021	1/2024		
22-302 Review of Strategic Asset Allocation Procedures and Governance							
1.4.1 Alignment with SAA target allocations	In Progress	Other Reportable	6/2022	12/2024			
22-303 Review of Investment Performance Measurement							
2.2.2 Reliance on Excel Workbooks / Scalability	In Progress	Other Reportable	8/2022	8/2023	1/2024		

Recommendation	Status	Issue Type	Issue Date	Estimated Date	Revised / Actual Date		
22-304 Review of Internal Fundamental Public Equity Portfolio Operations							
2.1.1 Consultation between Legal & Compliance and IFM	In Progress	Other Reportable	1/2023	9/2023			
2.3.1 Establish research documentation criteria	Implemented	Other Reportable	1/2023	6/2023	6/2023		
22-401 Review of Records Management							
1.1 Assist business units in weighing benefits against risks of longer retention timeframes	In Progress	Other Reportable	6/2022	2/2023	2/2024		
1.2 Require written justification and executive management approval for longer retention timeframes	In Progress	Other Reportable	6/2022	2/2023	2/2024		
3.1 Continue efforts to implement record management automated features	In Progress	Other Reportable	6/2022	3/2023	1/2024		
3.2 Include shared and personal drives to Microsoft project	In Progress	Other Reportable	6/2022	5/2025			
22-402 Follow-Up of Procurement Audit							
1.2.1 Implement enhancement feature to tie IMD payments to their relevant contracts	In Progress	Other Reportable	11/2022	9/2023			
1.2.2 P&C management should separate invoice creation from the review and approval steps within PAVES	In Progress	Other Reportable	11/2022	9/2023			
1.2.3 P&C management should implement enhancements to limit the number of instances users have to manually enter data in key fields	In Progress	Other Reportable	11/2022	9/2024			
1.2.4 P&C management should improve quality assurance reviews to ensure accuracy and completeness of data.	In Progress	Other Reportable	11/2022	9/2023			
2.1 TRS management should assist P&C in bringing a cultural shift to comply with P&C's lead times	In Progress	Other Reportable	11/2022	9/2023			

Recommendation	Status	Issue Type	Issue Date	Estimated Date	Revised / Actual Date
22-502 IT Contract Oversight					
1.1 Implement contract monitoring policies and procedures	Implemented	Significant	1/2023	2/2023	1/2023
1.2 Align contract monitoring efforts with key contract requirements	In Progress	Significant	1/2023	2/2023	3/2024
1.3 Strengthen invoice review processes	In Progress	Significant	1/2023	2/2023	3/2024
2.1 Enhance and document the risk assessment process	Implemented	Other Reportable	1/2023	2/2023	2/2023
2.2 Perform risk assessment for executed contracts	Implemented	Significant	1/2023	2/2023	2/2023
23-102 Review of Reporting Employer Processes					
1.1 Practical enhancements to the TRUST system	In Progress	Significant	7/2023	12/2023	
1.2. Report submission after due dates	In Progress	Significant	7/2023	12/2023	
1.3.a. Develop and implement KPIs	In Progress	Other Reportable	7/2023	6/2024	
1.3.b. Notify REs about any changes to the performance targets	In Progress	Other Reportable	7/2023	8/2023	
1.4 The TRUST system open tickets	In Progress	Significant	7/2023	1/2024	
2.1.a. Develop Targeted Training Sessions	In Progress	Other Reportable	7/2023	8/2023	9/2023
2.1.b. Proactively identify and resolve issues with REs who contact their coaches	Implemented	Other Reportable	7/2023	8/2023	8/2023
2.1.c. Organization of training material	In Progress	Other Reportable	7/2023	1/2024	

Recommendation	Status	Issue Type	Issue Date	Estimated Date	Revised / Actual Date	
2.1.d. Implement Quality Assurance Process	In Progress	Other Reportable	7/2023	7/2023	8/2023	
2.2 Supplement the annual RE survey with several transaction surveys	In Progress	Other Reportable	7/2023	7/2023	8/2023	
23-302 Review of External Public Markets Portfolio Operations						
1.1 Internal Asset Transfer two day waiting period	Implemented	Other Reportable	7/2023	6/2023	6/2023	





Internal Audit

Administrative Reports Fiscal Year 2023

Amanda Jenami, CPA, CIA, CISA, CFE, CGAP, CRMA, CHIAP

September 15, 2023





Internal Audit Performance Measures Fiscal Year 2023

FY2023 Strategic Plan

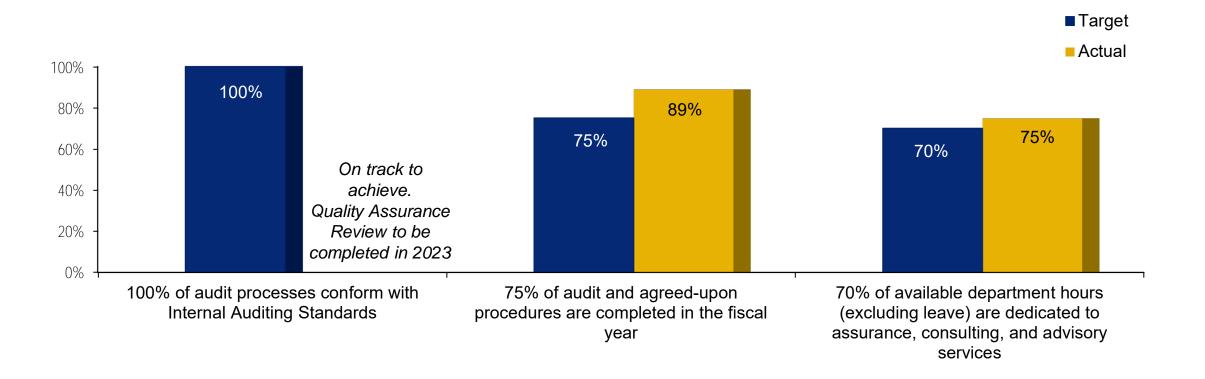
Goal 1: Provide assurance to the Board of Trustees and Senior Management (3 KPIs)
Goal 2: Serve as trusted advisor to the Board of Trustees and Management (4 KPIs)
Goal 3: Attract, develop and retain diverse and outstanding talent (7 KPIs)
Goal 4: Leverage technology (1 KPI)

FY2023 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

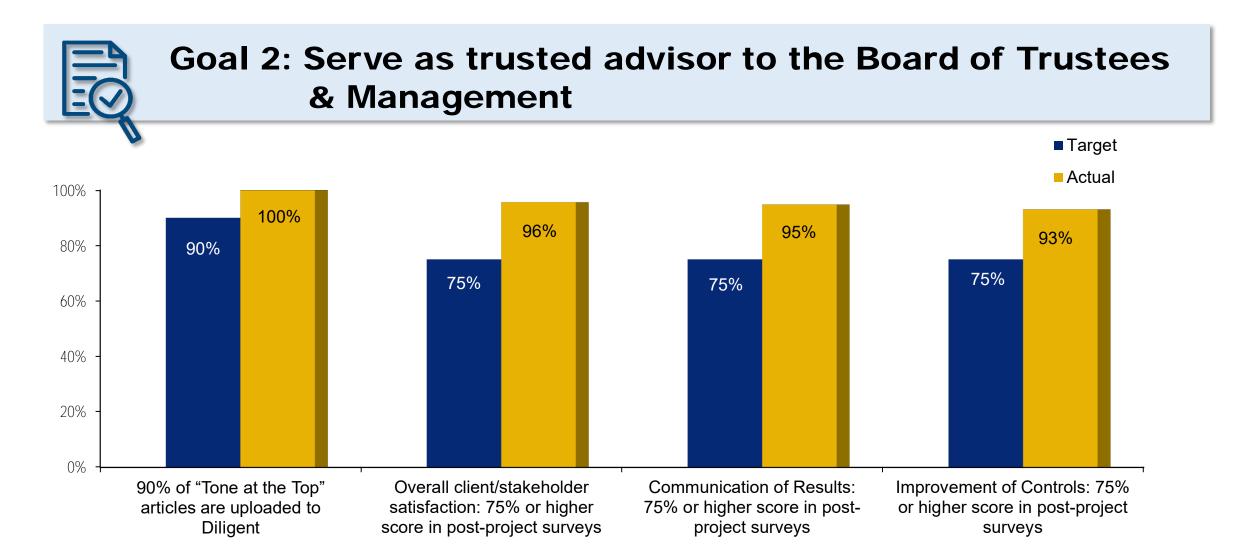
Internal Audit met or exceeded 93% (14 out of 15) of its performance targets for the year.



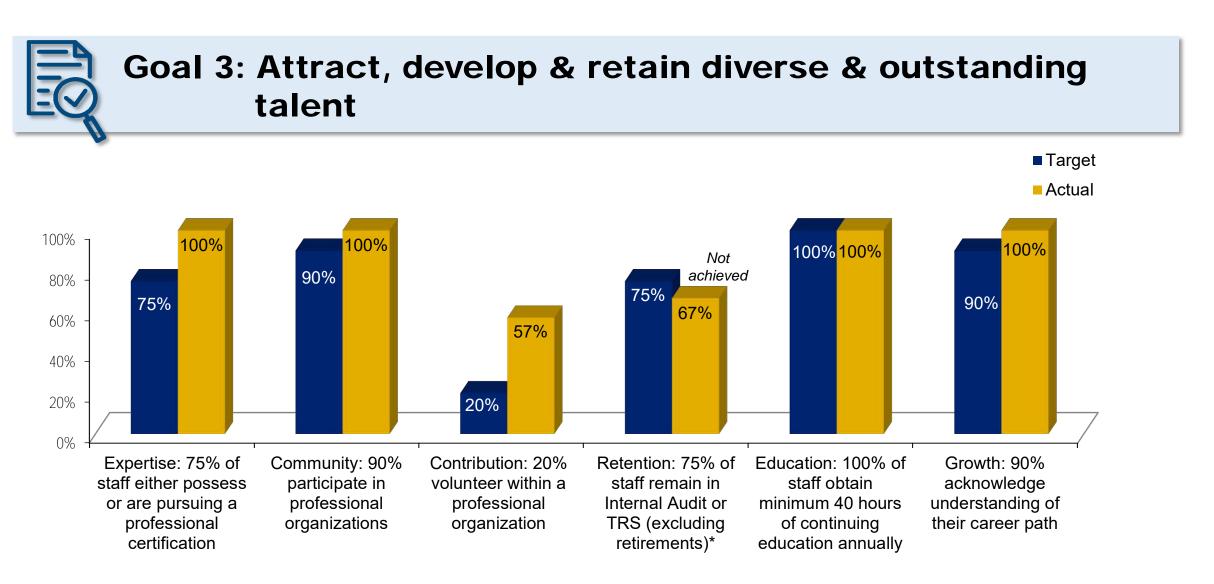
Goal 1: Provide Assurance to the Board of Trustees & Senior Management



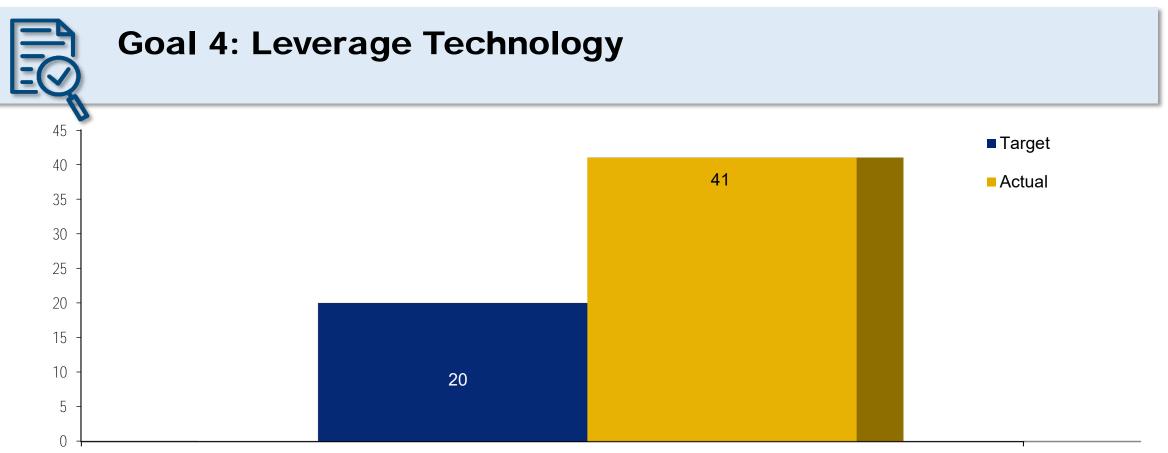












Develop & implement approximately 20 data analysis scripts or algorithms annually

Advisory Services FY2023

Internal Audit Advisory Services

EXECUTIVE

- Facilitated external audits of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, TRICOT Annual Financial Report, and FY22 Other Post-Employee Benefits (OPEB)
- Served on the Risk Oversight Committee
- Served on the ERM Maturity Project Team
- Served on the Enterprise Data Governance Council
- Participated in Enterprise Projects Oversight Committee (EPOC)

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT DIVISION (IMD)

- Attended Internal Investment Committee (IIC) meetings
- Attended monthly Securities Lending monitoring calls
- Held quarterly collaboration meetings with Investment Compliance and Investment Risk
- Held quarterly collaboration meetings with IMD management

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Attended Information Security Advisory Team (ISAT) meetings
- Attended Change Management Team (CMT) meetings
- Coordinated IPA (TEAM) activities
- Held collaboration meetings with Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Chief Information Security Officer

BENEFIT SERVICES

- Attended quarterly Employer Advisory Group meetings
- Performed RE data integrity tests via data analytics

FINANCIAL SERVICES

 Performed independent testing and reconciliation of wire activity

HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS (HIB)

Performed independent TEAM testing and reconciliation

Staff Highlights

Cui "Tswey" Rye Senior Auditor, Operations Audit Services

Cui joins us with five years of audit experience and 13 years of experience in public and private accounting. For the last six years, Cui served as the Vice President of Finance for a local notfor-profit organization.

Cui is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and is a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt. She holds a Master of Science in Accounting from Michigan State University and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from University of Texas at Austin.



Brian Browder Senior IT Auditor, IT Audit

Brian brings more 10 years of experience in information security, information technology (IT), and IT auditing. Brian is joining us from the Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association (COPERA), where he has served as an Information Technology Manager for the last eleven months. Prior to that, Brian held a variety roles in technology and security including Information Security Consultant, IT Compliance Manager, and IT Auditor.

Brian is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) and holds a Certificate of Cloud Security Knowledge (CCSK). He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Computer Information Systems and Management from Baylor University.



Questions?