CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO

AUDIT REPORT

For the Year Ended December 31, 2018





88 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 IPAReport@ohioauditor.gov (800) 282-0370

Members of the Board Ohio Government Benefit Consortium 14600 State Road North Royalton, OH 44133

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Ohio Government Benefit Consortium, Cuyahoga County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Ohio Government Benefit Consortium is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber Auditor of State Columbus, Ohio

August 26, 2019



OHIO GOVERNMENT BENEFIT COOPERATIVE CUYAHOGA COUNTY AUDIT REPORT

For the Year Ending December 31, 2018

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Ohio Government Benefit Cooperative Cuyahoga County 14600 State Road North Royalton, Ohio 44133

To the Board of Directors:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Ohio Government Benefit Cooperative, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (the Consortium), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Consortium's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Consortium's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Consortium's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

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Ohio Government Benefit Cooperative Cuyahoga County Independent Auditor's Report Page 2

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Ohio Government Benefit Cooperative, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2018, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 3–5 and the Claims Development Information Schedule (the Schedule) on pages 16–17 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 20, 2019, on our consideration of the Consortium's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Consortium's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Consortium's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Charles Having Assaciation

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.

June 20, 2019

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018 (UNAUDITED)

The discussion and analysis of the Ohio Government Benefit Cooperative's ("the Consortium") financial performance provides an overall review of the Consortium's financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2018. The intent this discussion and analysis is to look at the Consortium's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the basic financial statements and the notes to the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the Consortium's financial performance.

Using this Annual Report

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Consortium's basic financial statements. The Consortium uses the accrual method of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The basic financial statements, which follow this section, provide both long and short-term information about the Consortium's financial status. The statement of net position and the statement of revenue, expenses, and changes in net position provide information about the financial activities of the Consortium. These are followed by the statement of cash flows, which represents detailed information about the changes in the Consortium's cash position during the year.

Financial Overview

This annual report consists of three parts - management's discussion and analysis (this section), the basic financial statements, and required supplemental information.

The three basic financial statements presented are as follows:

Statement of Net Position - This statement presents information reflecting the Consortium's assets, liabilities, and net position and is categorized into current assets and liabilities.

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position - This statement reflects the operating and nonoperating revenue and expenses for the current year. Operating revenue consists primarily of member contributions and reimbursements, with the major sources of operating expenses being claims expenses, excess loss insurance premiums, and general and administrative expenses.

Statement of Cash Flows - This statement is presented on the direct method of reporting and reflects cash flows from operating activities. Cash collections and payments are reflected in this statement to arrive at the net increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents for the year.

The notes to the basic financial statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the financial statements. These notes to the basic financial statements can be found on pages 9-14 of this report.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018 (UNAUDITED)

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for 2018 are as follows:

- Cash and investments were \$490,880 at December 31, 2018.
- The Consortium has retained an independent actuary to determine the loss and loss adjustment expense reserves. Based upon the actuary's report, the loss and loss adjustment expense reserves were \$281,000 at December 31, 2018.
- The Consortium had operating revenues of \$3,749,911 for 2018.
- The Consortium had operating expenses of \$3,626,049 for 2018.
- There was no activity in 2017 due to 2018 being the Consortium's first year of operation.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

At December 31, 2018, the Consortium had no capital assets or outstanding debt obligations.

Budget Highlights

The Consortium is not required to follow the budgetary provisions set forth in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 5705.

Required Supplemental Information

One year of claims development information can be found on pages 16-17 of this report.

Current Financial Related Activities

The inaugural year of the Ohio Government Benefit Cooperative was successful in creating a reserve balance exceeding estimated claims for the two entities in group. The reserve balance of \$281,000 slightly exceeded original estimates.

Starting January 1st of 2019, the Ohio Government Benefit Cooperative Board members approved the inclusion of three new member cities. The new member cities are the City of Mayfield Heights, the City of South Euclid, and the City of Willoughby. All five members are located in either Cuyahoga or Lake County in Northeast Ohio.

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018 (UNAUDITED)

Contacting the Consortium's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our members with a general overview of the Ohio Government Benefit Cooperative's finances and to reflect the Consortium's accountability for taxpayer monies that it receives from its members. Questions concerning any of the information in this report or requests for additional financial information should be directed to Eric Dean, Fiscal Officer, 14600 State Road, North Royalton, Ohio 44133.

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION December 31, 2018

ASSETS

Current Assets:	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents with Fiscal Agent	\$ 490,880
Total Assets	490,880
<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
Current Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	86,018
Claims Payable	281,000
Total Liabilities	367,018
NET POSITION	
Unrestricted	123,862_
Total Net Position	\$ 123,862

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

OPERATING REVENUES	
Member Contributions	\$ 2,957,124
Prescription Drug Rebates	51,825
Stop Loss Premiums	740,962
Total Operating Revenues	3,749,911
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Claims Expense	1,971,966
Excess Loss Insurance Premiums	1,102,205
Legal and Professional Fees	185,005
Administrative Fees	366,437
Other	436
Total Operating Expense	3,626,049
Change in Net Position	123,862
Net Position - Beginning of Year	-
Net Position - End of Year	\$ 123,862

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

Cash Flows from Operating Activities	
Cash Received for Premiums	\$3,749,911
Cash Paid for Premiums and Claims	(2,742,013)
Cash Payments to Vendors for Services	(517,018)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	490,880
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	490,880
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year	
Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of Year	\$ 490,880
Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities Operating Income	\$ 123,862
Increase in Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	86,018
Reserve for Unpaid Claims	281,000
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	\$ 490,880

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE COOPERATIVE

The Ohio Government Benefit Cooperative (the "Consortium") is a legally separate entity organized under Ohio Revised Code Section 9.833. The Consortium was established on December 1st, 2017, as a joint self-insurance program formed by several political subdivisions throughout Northeast Ohio. The purpose of the Consortium is to maximize benefits and reduce the costs of medical and prescription drug, vision, dental, life and/or group insurance coverages for their employees and eligible dependents. These coverages are described in the summary of coverage benefits, which has been distributed to all member officers and employees covered by the Plan. Participants should refer to the plan agreement for a complete description of the Plan's provisions. The Consortium members as of December 31, 2018 were the City of North Royalton and the City of Strongsville. In 2019, the following Cities became members; City of Mayfield Heights, City of South Euclid and the City of Willoughby.

A. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is the governing body of the Consortium. Each Consortium member appoints one individual to be its representative on the Board of Directors. The officers of the Board of Directors consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Recording Secretary, who are elected at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors and serve until the next annual meeting. All of the authority of the Consortium is exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors sets and approves all benefit programs to be offered through the Consortium, and all policies and other contracts are accepted or entered into by the Consortium. The Board of Directors sets all premium and other amounts to be paid by the Consortium members. All members of the Board of Directors serve without compensation.

B. Enrollment by Members

Participants pay an initial \$500 membership fee to OGBC. OGBC offers two options to participants. Participants may enroll in the joint insurance purchasing program for medical prescription drug, vision dental and/or life insurance. A second option is available for self-insured participants that provides for the purchase of stop loss insurance coverage through OGBC's third party administrator. Medical Mutual is the Administrator of the OGBC.

C. Withdrawal of a Consortium Member

Any Consortium member, except the Fiscal Agent, may withdraw from the Consortium at least thirty days prior to the effective date of the withdrawal. Upon withdrawal by notice of any self-insured Consortium member, or upon automatic withdrawal for non-payment by any self-insured Consortium member, such self-insured Consortium member shall be solely responsible for the payment of all of its benefit claims run-out.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSORTIUM - (Continued)

Upon any withdrawal by any fully-funded Consortium Member, the Consortium shall be solely responsible for all benefit claims run-out for such fully-funded Consortium Member, and such fully-funded Consortium Member shall have no responsibility for its claims run-out.

D. Contributions

All members are required to remit monthly contributions to the fiscal agent, which are used to pay claims and related claim settlement expenses, to purchase excess loss insurance for the Plan and to establish and maintain sufficient loss reserves. Each member may require contributions from its employees toward the cost of any benefit program being offered, and such contributions are included in the payments from such member to the fiscal agent. The monthly contribution is determined for each member in accordance with the number of covered employees and dependents and the prior loss experience of the respective member group. The members' contributions represent an amount in excess of the expected costs of the Plan, which has allowed the Plan to establish reserves for future operations. The funds are maintained in a custodial bank account established for the sole purpose and benefit of the Plan's operations.

E. Administration of the Plan

The Plan has entered into an agreement with Mutual Health Services, a division of Medical Mutual Services. LLC, an independent third-party administrator (the "Administrator") to perform claims processing and administrative services. These duties include full responsibility for the approval and payment of claims submitted under the Plan, authority to pay reinsurance, and administrative cost. In addition, the Administrator is required to maintain both a fidelity bond covering all of its agents and employees and an errors and omissions insurance policy.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The summary of significant accounting policies of the Consortium is presented to assist in understanding the accompanying financial statements. The financial statements and notes are representations of management who is responsible for their integrity and objectivity.

A. Basis of Presentation

The basic financial statements of the Consortium have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to local governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

B. Basis of Accounting

For financial reporting purposes, the Consortium is engaged in business-type activities and utilizes the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method of accounting, revenues are recognized when they are earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

The Consortium distinguishes operating revenues and expenses from non-operating items. Operating revenues generally result from charges to members for insurance premiums, loss contributions, and prescription drug rebates. Operating expenses include loss and loss adjustment expenses, insurance premiums, administrative fees and professional fees.

C. Cash and Investments

The fiscal agent for the consortium is the finance director of the City of North Royalton. During 2018 the Consortium did not have any investments. For the future, investments will be reported at fair value, which is based on quoted market prices. For the purposes of the statements of cash flows, the Consortium considers all unrestricted highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

D. Fair Value Measurements

The Consortium categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets; Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs; Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs.

E. Claims Payable

The Consortium's liability for claims payable is determined using actuarial analysis and is computed in accordance with accepted loss reserving standards. The reserve represents an estimate of the ultimate net cost of all claims incurred which were unpaid at December 31, 2018. This includes an estimate of claims incurred but not yet reported (IBNR) as of December 31, 2018. A 20% margin has been added to the IBNR to reflect expected variability. Loss adjustment expenses were calculated as 5% of expected claims.

Although the Consortium considers its experience and industry data in determining such reserves, assumptions and projections as to future events are necessary and ultimate losses may differ significantly from amounts projected. The effects of changes in reserve estimates are included in the statements of revenue, expenses and changes in net position in the period in which estimates are charged. Reserves are not discounted.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

F. Excess Loss Agreement

The Consortium uses a reinsurance agreement to reduce its exposure to large losses. This excess loss agreement allows the Consortium to recover a portion of losses incurred. The Consortium does not report reinsured risks as liabilities unless it is probable that those risks will not be covered by the excess loss agreement.

G. Net Position

Net position is the excess of revenues over expenses during the period in which the Consortium has been in existence. If adequate provision has been made for the payment of all claims and expenses of the Consortium, the Board of Directors, at its discretion, may distribute surplus funds to members subject to certain restrictions. In lieu of distributing surplus funds, the Board may carry forward the surplus to future years.

H. Member Contributions

Member contributions are recognized on an accrual basis and are recorded in the month earned. Contributions receivable represent contributions due, but not received in the current period. Deferred contributions represent the portion of contributions received, which will be earned in a future period.

I. Estimates

The preparation of financial statements requires the Consortium to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of Consortium assets, liabilities and benefit obligations, and the reported increases and decreases of Consortium assets during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

J. Federal Income Tax

The Consortium has received an exemption from Federal income tax as an organization formed under Section 501(c)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Consortium is not classified as a private foundation. Under ASC No. 740-10, the Consortium's tax returns for the years are subject to examination by tax authorities.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the Consortium will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. Protection of the Consortium's cash and deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), as well as qualified securities pledged by the institution holding the assets. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or protected by:

Eligible securities pledged to the Consortium and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose fair value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured.

Participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS requires the total fair value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State. The Consortium's financial institution had enrolled in OPCS as of December 31, 2018.

At year end the carrying amount and bank balance of the Consortium's deposits were \$490,880. Of this amount, \$250,000 was insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

The Consortium may invest in the following instruments: U.S. Government Securities, U.S. Government Agency Securities and Instrumentalities of Government Sponsored Agencies, Interest-Bearing Certificates of Deposit, Mutual Funds, and State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio, Repurchase Agreements, and Commercial Paper.

The Consortium had no investments outstanding at December 31, 2018.

NOTE 4 – RISK MANAGEMENT

A. Medical and Dental Benefits

The Consortium contracts with a third party administrator, Mutual Health Services, to process and pay health claims and dental claims incurred by its members. Members pay monthly premiums to the Consortium, based on each member's individual rating. The Fiscal Agent issues payments to the third party administrator for actual insurance claims processed, stop-loss premiums, and administrative charges.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

NOTE 4 – RISK MANAGEMENT – (Continued)

B. Stop-Loss Coverage

The consortium has purchased specific excess insurance coverage from a reinsurer to reduce its exposure to large specific losses. The excess insurance contract permits recovery of a portion of losses in excess of \$100,000 per subscriber. The consortium has also purchase aggregate excess insurance coverage from a reinsurer to reduce its exposure to aggregate losses. The excess insurance contract permits recovery of a portion of losses in excess of 125 percent corridor.

For the year ended December 31, 2018, the amount charged to expense was \$1,102,205.

NOTE 5 – CLAIMS PAYABLE

The Consortium established a reserve liability that includes a provision for reported and unreported insured events and an estimate of future payment of losses and loss adjustment expenses. The liability was provided by the Consortium's independent actuary, UHAS Health Actuaries, for the years ended December 31, 2018 as follows:

Fiscal Year	Beginning Balance	e	Claims Payments		Ending Balance		
2018	\$ -	\$	2,252,966	\$	1,971,966	\$	281,000

Year ended December 31, 2018 was the Consortium's first year of operation.

NOTE 6 – LITIGATION

The Consortium is not party to any litigation.

NOTE 7 - THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION

The Consortium has agreements with third party administrators for the purpose of claims administration, claims adjustments, loss control and financial record keeping. For the year ended December 31, 2018, the amount charged to expense was \$366,437.

Required Supplementary Information

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ONE-YEAR CLAIMS DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION

The following table illustrates how the Consortium's earned revenues (net of reinsurance) and investment income compares to related costs of loss and other expenses assumed by the Consortium as of the end of the year. The rows of the table are defined as follows:

- (1) This line shows the total of each year's gross earned contributions and reported investment income.
- (2) This line shows each year's other operating costs of the Consortium including overhead and loss expenses not allocable to individual claims.
- (3) This line shows the Consortium's incurred losses originally reported at the end of the year in which the event that triggered coverage occurred (called policy year).
- (4) This section shows the cumulative amounts paid as of the end successive years for each policy year.
- (5) This section shows how each policy year's incurred losses increased or decreased as of the end of successive years. This annual re-estimation results from new information received on known claims, re-evaluation of existing information on known claims and emergence of new losses not previously known.
- (6) This line compares the latest re-estimated incurred losses amount to the amount originally established (line 3) and shows whether this latest estimate of losses is greater or less than originally thought. As data for individual policy years mature, the correlation between original estimates and re-estimated amounts is commonly used to evaluate the accuracy of incurred losses currently recognized in less mature policy years. The columns of the table show data for successive policy years.

SCHEDULE OF CLAIMS DEVELOPMENT AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

	2018
1. Required Contributions and Investment Revenue:	
Earned	3,008,949
Ceded	
Net Earned	3,008,949
2. Unallocated Expenses	551,878
3. Estimated Claims & Expenses. End of Policy Year	
Incurred	1,971,966
Ceded	
Net Incurred	1,971,966
4. Net Paid (Cumulative) as of:	
End of Policy Year	1,690,966
One Year Later	-
Two Years Later	-
Three Years Later	-
Four Years Later	-
Five Years Later	-
Six Years Later Seven Years Later	-
Eight Years Later	_
Nine Years Later	_
5. Re-Estimated Ceded Claims & Expenses	-
6. Re-Estimated Net Incurred Claims & Expenses:	
End of Policy Year	1,971,966
One Year Later	-
Two Years Later	-
Three Years Later	-
Four Years Later	-
Five Years Later	-
Six Years Later	-
Seven Years Later	-
Eight Years Later	-
Nine Years Later	-
7. Increase (Decrease) in Estimated Net Incurred Claims & Expenses from End of Policy Year	-
* 2018 was first year of existence	



Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.

Certified Public Accountants

Fax - (216) 436-2411

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Ohio Government Benefit Cooperative Cuyahoga County 14600 State Road North Royalton, Ohio 44133

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Ohio Government Benefits Cooperative, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (the Consortium), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Consortium's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 20, 2019.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Consortium's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Consortium's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Consortium's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Consortium's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or, significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

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Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Consortium's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Consortium's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Consortium's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose

Choules Having Assaciation

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc. June 20, 2019



CUYAHOGA COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

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

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

Susan Babbitt

CERTIFIED SEPTEMBER 5, 2019