

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations  
2013-14 Performance Report  
Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission

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AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

To protect the public's welfare and interest through the enforcement of the laws and regulations pertaining to alcoholic beverages, charity gaming, and youth access to tobacco products.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

A Keith Burt, Director,  
Oklahoma ABLE Commission  
3812 N Santa Fe, Suite 200,  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118;  
[kburt@able.ok.gov](mailto:kburt@able.ok.gov);  
405-522-3048.

GOVERNANCE:

The Commission is headed by an appointee (the Director) of the independent board. The independent board consists of seven members who are appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate. Five members represent the Lay Citizenry at-large. The remaining two are required to possess experience in law enforcement. Members are appointed for terms of five years. The State Constitution directs that no more than four of the Commission members shall be from the same political party and no more than two of the members shall be from the same federal congressional district. In addition, the Constitution prohibits any Commission member from holding any alcoholic beverage license or having any interest in the manufacture, sale, distribution, or transportation of alcoholic beverages. These members are: Paul David "P.D." Taylor (Chairman), Randy Kevin Earhart (Vice Chairman), Jim Lowder (Member), Maxine McFalls (Member), Harry J. "Trey" Kouri III (Member), and Bryan Close (Member), Devin S. Graves (Member).

The board does not have any committees or subgroups.

GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

Our Board minutes are included. There is no formal attendance policy; however, board meetings are very well attended by all current commissioners. We are required to have a Commission meeting each month and a quorum must exist.

MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

Please provide a listing of all government modernization efforts undertaken by the agency since July 1, 2010. Additionally, please provide any authorizing statutory changes that prompted the

modernization efforts and whether those efforts have led to cost savings or additional cost burden.

We continue to work with the states Chief Information Officer on Information Technology (IT) modernization and consolidation. We continue to explore options on claim and payroll processing sharing. We have participated in a task force committee to examine constitutional changes in Oklahoma's liquor laws.

What steps has the agency taken to cut costs and/or eliminate waste? Are there efforts that have been successful which you believe could serve as a model for other state agencies seeking to keep costs minimal?

The agency has cut back on the number of satellite offices in the state from four to three closing our Lawton office. Prior to the requirement that such efforts be made, the agency has moved a major portion of its' licensing effort onto the Internet which has enabled reductions in personnel needed to review, file, and maintain agency licensing information with a resultant savings in payroll salaries and benefits. Administrative costs have been reduced about as far as we can. In recent years we have lost our Chief Agent to retirement without replacement. In the fall of 2010, our Deputy Director Marta Patton with 25 years of ABLE Commission experience retired and we have no plans to replace her. We consolidated our Administrative Law Judge position and their secretary into our Human Resource Director's position and we moved our legal secretary into a Licensing Supervisor position, while maintaining all her legal secretary duties. You can see most of our employees are stretched very thin, doing multiple tasks.

CORE MISSION:

What services are you required to provide which are outside of your core mission? Are any services you provide duplicated or replicated by another agency? Are there services which are core to your mission which you are unable to perform because of requirements to perform non-core services elsewhere?

We have a small but focused work force that collects a surplus each year for the General Revenue Fund. We are specialized in liquor laws, prevention of youth access to tobacco and charity games enforcement with only 41 FTE in our entire agency. Other law enforcement agencies such as local police departments, sheriff's offices, and state police enforce liquor and tobacco laws, so there is occasional overlapping.

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

Are any of the services which are performed by the agency also performed in the private sector in Oklahoma? In other states? Has the agency been approached by any foundation, for-profit or not-for-profit corporation with efforts to privatize some of the functions of the agency?

Enforcement as well as revenue collections could be outsourced to other law enforcement and tax collecting agencies; however, I don't see this providing a savings to Oklahomans, fiscally or regarding public safety.