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OSIG NEWS

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For Immediate Release: July 9, 2019

Audit Finds VCE Furniture Program Needs Improvement

The Virginia Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG) has published a performance audit report on the Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC) Virginia Correctional Enterprises (VCE) Furniture Program, which outlines seven findings and 13 related recommendations for improvement. VCE is a self-supporting work program that employs offenders in Virginia's correctional system to produce finished goods for sale throughout the Commonwealth. OSIG contracted with SC&H Attest Services, P.C. to conduct the audit between September 2018 and February 2019.

"The audit set out to determine several things, including if VCE's furniture prices are competitive with comparable products in private industry and if offenders participating in the program are learning viable job skills that make them employable post-incarceration," said State Inspector General Michael C. Westfall. "VCE management has displayed a commitment to assist the offenders who participate in its furniture program through continued efforts to improve training opportunities. VCE has started to implement solutions, including apprenticeship programs and an electronic waiver process."

Audit findings

The audit determined that procedures for retail pricing were not formally defined, documented or adequately controlled. The audit found that the VCE website does not provide customers with consistent, up-to-date information or pricing. Audit findings also revealed that VCE does not maintain measurable statistics related to recidivism, job training or employment, and that VCE's process to provide job references and skills verification is decentralized and not consistent across work centers.

Audit recommendations

Audit recommendations include having VCE formally develop and document procedures and expectations related to pricing, customer feedback, training and job references. VCE should explore IT systems enhancements to increase functionality, reduce risk, and implement controls for website data. The audit also recommended that VCE enhance and centralize its certification and training functions to offer more options and provide more consistent participation opportunities to offenders, and that VCE implement procedures for quantifying and tracking program success factors.

Read the Virginia Department of Corrections Performance Audit of Virginia Correctional Enterprises Furniture Program [here](#).

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Established in 2012, the Virginia Office of the State Inspector General manages the State Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline; conducts investigations and performance audits of state agencies; provides training and standards for the commonwealth's internal audit programs; and conducts inspections and reviews of Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services-run facilities and programs.