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STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER

January 16, 2009

Ms. Karen M. Carpenter-Palumbo
Commissioner
NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services
1450 Western Avenue
Albany, NY 12203

Re: Report 2008-F-35

Dear Ms. Carpenter-Palumbo:

According to the State Comptroller's authority as set forth in Article V, Section 1 of the State Constitution; and Article II, Section 8 of the State Finance Law, we have followed up on the actions taken by officials of the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services to implement the recommendations contained in our audit report, *Network Security Controls* (Report 2006-S-98).

Background, Scope and Objectives

The Office has created a computer network to help carry out its duties. Employees use the network to access the Internet and e-mail, agency applications, and shared files. The Office of Information Services maintains the network by supporting its servers, configuring its hardware, setting up desktop computers, providing software support, ensuring network connectivity for all business units, and managing network devices.

The Office must comply with New York State's Cyber Security Policy, which is issued by the Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination. The security policy defines the minimum information security requirements all State entities must meet.

Our initial audit report was issued on November 6, 2007, and examined selected aspects of the security controls in place over the network. The objective of our follow-up was to assess the extent of implementation as of December 10, 2008 of the recommendations included in our initial confidential report. Due to the sensitivity of the information and the potential risk associated with the release of such information, the details of the recommendations and their implementation status are not included in this report. However, we discussed the detailed results of our follow-up work with Office officials during the fieldwork.

Summary Conclusions

Overall, we found Office officials have taken actions to implement the recommendations contained in the confidential draft report; however, some additional steps are still needed. Officials generally agreed with our conclusions and will take additional actions to fully implement the recommendations.

Major contributors to this report were Nadine Morrell, Mark Ren, Mark Abraham, and Corey Harrell.

We thank management and staff for the courtesies and cooperation extended to our auditors during this review.

Yours Truly,

Brian Reilly
Audit Manager

cc: Tom Lukacs, Division of the Budget
Trisha Schell-Guy, Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services