



**HENRY COUNTY SOUTHERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
HENRY COUNTY**

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2007



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

**HENRY COUNTY SOUTHERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
HENRY COUNTY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Cover Letter	1
Independent Accountants' Report.....	3
Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Cash Balance – General Fund - For the Years Ended December 31, 2007 and 2006	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6
Independent Accountants' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	13
Schedule of Findings	15

This page intentionally left blank.



Mary Taylor, CPA Auditor of State

Henry County Southern Joint Ambulance District
Henry County
131 S. Marion Street
P.O. Box 433
Hamler, Ohio 43524-0433

To the Board of Trustees:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statements due to an interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Our Report includes an adverse opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statements present are misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statements you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Taylor".

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

April 30, 2008

This page intentionally left blank.



Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Henry County Southern Joint Ambulance District
Henry County
131 S. Marion Street
P.O. Box 433
Hamler, Ohio 43524-0433

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Henry County Southern Joint Ambulance District, Henry County, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006. These financial statements are the responsibility of the District's management. 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 the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. The District processes its financial transactions with the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the independence of the Auditor of State to audit the District because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and as requested, operates UAN. However, *Government Auditing Standards* permits the Auditor of State to audit and opine on this entity, because Ohio Revised Code § 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code §§ 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the District has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

Instead of the fund the accompanying financial statements present, GAAP require presenting entity wide statements and also presenting the District's larger (i.e. major) funds separately. While the District does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require ambulance districts to reformat their statements. The District has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirements. The following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District as of December 31, 2007 and 2006.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fund cash balances and reserve for encumbrances of Henry County Southern Joint Ambulance District, Henry County, as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

The District has not presented Management's Discussion and Analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America has determined is necessary to supplement, although not required to be part of, the financial statements.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 30, 2008, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

April 30, 2008

**HENRY COUNTY SOUTHERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
HENRY COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCE
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006**

	2007	2006
Cash Receipts:		
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	\$500	\$600
Miscellaneous		1,500
Total Cash Receipts	500	2,100
Cash Disbursements:		
Current Disbursements:		
Security of Persons and Property	20,008	12
Capital Outlay	648	
Total Cash Disbursements	20,656	12
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(20,156)	2,088
Other Financing Receipts:		
Sale of Notes	20,000	
Excess of Cash Receipts and Other Financing Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(156)	2,088
Fund Cash Balance, January 1	2,088	
Fund Cash Balance, December 31	\$1,932	\$2,088
Reserve for Encumbrances, December 31	\$5,125	

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

**HENRY COUNTY SOUTHERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
HENRY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Henry County Southern Joint Ambulance District, Henry County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. An eleven member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. Those subdivisions are Barlow, Flatrock, Marion, Monroe, and Richfield Townships and the Villages of Deshler, Hamler, Holgate Malinta and New Bavaria. The District provides emergency medical services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

The District's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the District is financially accountable.

B. Accounting Basis

These financial statements follow the accounting basis the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The District recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

C. Fund Accounting

The District uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The District classifies its fund into the following type:

General Fund

The General Fund reports all financial resources.

D. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered cash as of January 1.

**HENRY COUNTY SOUTHERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
HENRY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006
(Continued)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – (CONTINUED)

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated. The District did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law. Management has included an audit adjustment in the accompanying budgetary presentations for a material item that should have been encumbered.

A summary of 2007 and 2006 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The District records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

2. CASH

The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of cash at December 31 was as follows:

	2007	2006
Demand Deposits	\$1,932	\$2,088

Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation;

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2007 and 2006 follows:

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General		\$20,500	\$20,500

2007 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General		\$25,781	(\$25,781)

**HENRY COUNTY SOUTHERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
HENRY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006
(Continued)**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY – (CONTINUED)

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General		\$2,100	\$2,100

2006 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General		\$12	(\$12)

Contrary to Ohio law, budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriation authority in the General Fund by \$25,781 and \$12 for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, respectively. This was due to the District not passing appropriations for either year. Also contrary to Ohio law, the District did not properly certify its expenditures.

4. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2007, was as follows:

Line of Credit	Principal	Interest Rate
	\$20,000	8%

The District enter into a line of credit with the Hamler Bank, in September 2007, to finance the costs of getting the District ready for operation. This line of credit matures September 2008 and has a limit of \$100,000. As of December 31, 2007, the District had borrowed \$20,000.

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The District's employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plans' benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2007 and 2006, OPERS members contributed 9.5 and 9.0%, respectively, of their gross salaries and the District contributed an amount equaling 13.85 and 13.7%, respectively, of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2007.

**HENRY COUNTY SOUTHERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
HENRY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006
(Continued)**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees.

The District belongs to the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (PEP), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio local governments. PEP provides property and casualty coverage for its members. PEP is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP). Member governments pay annual contributions to fund PEP. PEP pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

Casualty Coverage

For an occurrence prior to January 1, 2006, PEP retains casualty risks up to \$250,000 per occurrence, including claim adjustment expenses. PEP pays a percentage of its contributions to APEEP. APEEP reinsures claims exceeding \$250,000, up to \$1,750,000 per claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year. For an occurrence on or subsequent to January 1, 2006, the Pool retains casualty risk up to \$350,000 per occurrence, including loss adjustment expenses. Claims exceeding \$350,000 are reinsured with APEEP in an amount not to exceed \$2,650,000 for each claim and \$10,000,000 in the aggregate per year. Governments can elect up to \$10,000,000 in additional coverage with the General Reinsurance Corporation, through contracts with PEP.

If losses exhaust PEP's retained earnings, APEEP provides *excess of funds available* coverage up to \$5,000,000 per year, subject to a per-claim limit of \$2,000,000 (for claims prior to January 1, 2006) or \$3,000,000 (for claims on or after January 1, 2006) as noted above.

Property Coverage

Through 2004, PEP retained property risks, including automobile physical damage, up to \$100,000 on any specific loss in any one occurrence. The Travelers Indemnity Company reinsured losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$500 million per occurrence.

Beginning in 2005, Travelers reinsures specific losses exceeding \$250,000 up to \$600 million per occurrence. APEEP reinsures members for specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to \$250,000 per occurrence, subject to an annual aggregate loss payment. Travelers provides aggregate stop-loss coverage based upon the combined members' total insurable values. If the stop loss is reached by payment of losses between \$100,000 and \$250,000, Travelers will reinsure specific losses exceeding \$100,000 up to their \$600 million per occurrence limit. The aggregate stop-loss limit for 2006 was \$1,901,127.

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreements do not discharge PEP's primary liability for claims payments on covered losses. Claims exceeding coverage limits are the obligation of the respective government.

Property and casualty settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

**HENRY COUNTY SOUTHERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
HENRY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006
(Continued)**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT – (CONTINUED)

Financial Position

PEP's financial statements (audited by other accountants) conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31, 2006 and 2005 (the latest information available):

<u>Casualty Coverage</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Assets	\$30,997,868	\$29,719,675
Liabilities	(15,875,741)	(15,994,168)
Retained earnings	<u>\$15,122,127</u>	<u>\$13,725,507</u>

<u>Property Coverage</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Assets	\$5,125,326	\$4,443,332
Liabilities	(863,163)	(1,068,245)
Retained earnings	<u>\$4,262,163</u>	<u>\$3,375,087</u>

At December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively, casualty coverage liabilities noted above include approximately \$14.4 million and \$14.3 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The Casualty Coverage assets and retained earnings above also include approximately \$14.4 million and \$14.3 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 447 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. The Government's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$6,750. This payable includes the subsequent year's contribution due if the Government terminates participation, as described in the last paragraph below.

Based on discussions with PEP, the expected rates PEP charges to compute member contributions, which are used to pay claims as they become due, are not expected to change significantly from those used to determine the historical contributions detailed below. By contract, the annual liability of each member is limited to the amount of financial contributions required to be made to PEP for each year of membership.

<u>Contributions to PEP</u>	
2007	\$3,375

After completing one year of membership, members may withdraw on each anniversary of the date they joined PEP provided they give written notice to PEP 60 days in advance of the anniversary date. Upon withdrawal, members are eligible for a full or partial refund of their capital contributions, minus the subsequent year's budgetary contribution. Withdrawing members have no other future obligation to the pool. Also upon withdrawal, payments for all casualty claims and claim expenses become the sole responsibility of the withdrawing member, regardless of whether a claim occurred or was reported prior to the withdrawal.

**HENRY COUNTY SOUTHERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
HENRY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006
(Continued)**

7. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

During 2008, the District borrowed an additional \$65,000 on its existing line of credit with the Hamler State Bank. The District paid back all but \$1 of this in March 2008 with tax levy monies.

The voters passed a 2.9 mill tax levy to provide funding for the ambulance service, in 2007, for 5 years. The District started receiving tax levy monies in 2008.

This page intentionally left blank.



Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Henry County Southern Joint Ambulance District
Henry County
131 S. Marion Street
P.O. Box 433
Hamler, Ohio 43524-0433

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements of Henry County Southern Joint Ambulance District, Henry County, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, and have issued our report thereon dated April 30, 2008 wherein we noted the District prepared its financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We also noted the District uses the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) to process its financial transactions. *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the Auditor of State's independence to audit the District. However, *Government Auditing Standards* permits the Auditor of State to audit and opine on this entity, because Ohio Revised Code § 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code §§ 117.11(B) and 115.56 mandate the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments. 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 the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not to opine on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all internal control deficiencies that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we did identify a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that we consider a significant deficiency.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the District's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with its applicable accounting basis, such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the District's internal control will not prevent or detect a more-than-inconsequential financial statement misstatement.

We consider the following deficiency described in the accompanying schedule of findings to be a significant deficiency in control over financial reporting: 2007-001.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies resulting in more than a remote likelihood that the District's internal control will not prevent or detect a material financial statement misstatement.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also material weaknesses. We believe the significant deficiency described above is also a material weakness.

We noted certain internal control matters that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated April 30, 2008.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect 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 an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2007-001 and 2007-002.

We noted certain noncompliance matters that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated April 30, 2008.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of the finance committee, management, and Board of Trustees. We intend it for no one other than these specified parties.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

April 30, 2008

**HENRY COUNTY SOUTHERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT
HENRY COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
--

FINDING NUMBER 2007-001

Noncompliance Citation/Material Weakness

Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41(D)(1) prohibits a subdivision or taxing entity from making any contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet any such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance. Further, contracts and order for expenditures lacking prior certification shall be null and void.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above that a fiscal officer's certificate must be obtained prior to a subdivision or taxing authority entering into a contract or order involving the expenditure of money. The main exceptions are: "then and now" certificates, blanket certificates, and super blanket certificates, which are provided for in sections 5705.41(D)(1) and 5705.41(D)(3), respectively, of the Ohio Revised Code.

1. "Then and Now" certificate – If the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made ("then"), and at the time that the fiscal officer is completing the certification ("now"), that sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the District can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The District has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.

Amounts of less than \$3,000 may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution or ordinance upon completion of the "then and now" certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the District.

2. Blanket Certificate – Fiscal officers may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by a majority of the members of the legislative authority against any specific line item account over a period not running beyond the end of the current fiscal year. The blanket certificates may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. Only one blanket certificate may be outstanding at one particular time for any one particular line item appropriation.

3. Super Blanket Certificate – The District may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification is not to extend beyond the current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line item appropriation.

Forty-four percent of the transactions tested were not certified by the fiscal officer at the time the commitment was incurred and there was no evidence that the District followed the aforementioned exceptions. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

**FINDING NUMBER 2007-001
(Continued)**

The District also had \$5,125 in outstanding purchase commitments at December 31, 2007 which were not certified at year end. The accompanying financial statement and budgetary presentation footnote have been adjusted to reflect this amount as an outstanding encumbrance at December 31, 2007.

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute but is a key control in the disbursement process to assure that purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the District's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Fiscal Officer certify that the funds are or will be available prior to obligation by the District. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

We recommend the District certify purchases to which section 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The fiscal officer should sign the certification at the time the District incurs a commitment, and only when the requirements of 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The fiscal officer should post approved purchase commitments to the proper appropriation code, to reduce the available appropriation.

FINDING NUMBER 2007-002

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Revised Code § 5705.28(B)2(a) states that a taxing authority of a taxing unit that does not levy a tax is required to adopt an operating budget on or before the fifteenth day of July each year for the ensuing fiscal year. Additionally, Ohio Revised Code § 5705.38 states in part that on or about the first day of each year, the taxing authority of each subdivision or taxing unit shall pass an appropriation measure, and thereafter during the year it may pass any supplemental appropriation measures as it finds necessary, based on the revised tax budget or the official certificate of estimated resources or amendments of the certificate. Also, Ohio Revised Code 5705.41(B) states no subdivision or taxing unit is to expend money unless it has been appropriated.

The District did not pass an operating budget or appropriation measure for 2007 and 2006. This resulted in expenditures exceeding appropriations in the General Fund for 2007 and 2006.

We recommend that the District officials review Auditor of State Bulletin 99-014 entitled Compliance with Budgetary Requirements and the Ohio Compliance Supplement, and adopt a budget at the legal level of control for each fund prior to the start of each fiscal year. This budget should be used as a monitoring tool to ensure expenditures stay within prescribed limits. Adopting and monitoring a budget would help make sure the District uses its resources in the most economical manner and would help maintain the District's financial stability.

Management's Response

We did not receive a response from Officials to these findings.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

HENRY COUNTY SOUTHERN JOINT AMBULANCE DISTRICT

HENRY 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.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
MAY 27, 2008**