

**Testimony of Commissioner Melody A. Currey  
Commissioner of Administrative Services**

**Appropriations Committee  
March 4, 2015**

Good morning Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Kane, Representative Ziobron and distinguished members of the Committee. My name is Melody Currey and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services (“DAS”). I would like to start by giving you a brief overview of DAS and then I welcome any questions you may have.

Currently, the **Department of Administrative Services** has 656 authorized full-time General Fund positions, as well as 95 other-funded positions, and a 2015 General Fund appropriation of \$147,186,053, not including Workers’ Compensation and State Insurance Risk Management claims funds and adjustments. In addition, DAS has been responsible for several hundred construction and construction-related projects and bond fund allotments of over \$800 million. DAS is organized into three bureaus: Administration; Construction Services and the Bureau of Enterprise Systems and Technology.

**Administration** houses the following divisions: Procurement Services; Statewide Human Resources Management; Collection Services; Fleet Operations; Workers’ Compensation; the Small Agency Resource Team; Property and Facilities Management; and the Business Office. Several other programs, including the Federal Surplus Food Distribution Program, the Supplier Diversity Program, and the Surplus Property/ Vehicle Disposition Program, are part of this bureau.

**Construction Services** provides capital project planning and management services for any state construction project over \$500,000 (other than projects managed by UConn and the Department of Transportation), as well as technical assistance and resources to state agencies in the areas of code compliance, energy conservation and usage, and environmental planning. It is also responsible for administering the school construction grant program, from evaluating applications, to reviewing of facility sites and project contract documents, to processing reimbursements.

Also housed within Construction Services are the **Office of the State Building Inspector** (OSBI) and the **Office of the State Fire Marshal** (OSFM), and the **Office of Education and Data Management** (OEDM). OSBI and OSFM, in conjunction with the State Codes and Standards Committee, develop and administer state building and fire safety and fire prevention codes. These two offices also provide interpretations and clarifications of code language; act upon requests for code modifications and waivers; review construction drawings, issue building permits and inspect large state buildings; inspect and issue operating certificates for boilers and elevators; and issue demolition and crane licenses. Working closely with the Office of the State Building Inspector and the Office of the State Fire Marshal, OEDM is responsible for training and accrediting Building and Fire Code Officials, as well as providing code-related instruction to individuals in the allied trade professions and managing the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for Connecticut.

The **Bureau of Enterprise Systems and Technology** (formerly, the Department of Information Technology) is responsible for building, maintaining and operating the statewide information technology infrastructure across state agencies while providing information technology services and cost effective solutions for state agencies and related entities.

In addition to these three bureaus, DAS partners with the Office of the State Comptroller to administer and staff Core-CT, the State's enterprise-wide financial, human resource and payroll system. The Office of the Claims Commissioner, the State Properties Review Board, the State Marshal Commission, and the State Insurance and Risk Management Board are also within DAS but retain independent decision-making authority.

In all aspects of DAS, our goals are cost containment, efficiency and improved services to state agencies and the public. To that end, I plan to "LEAN" many of the processes at DAS to identify ways to streamline processes. LEAN, as you may know, is a bottom up process. It empowers the employees to do their job in a new more efficient manner based on data they mine.

Admittedly, it is a challenging budget year, but I am confident that through LEAN and our other, on-going efforts, DAS will find savings and avoid costs while continuing to provide necessary services to state agencies, municipalities, colleges, universities, vendors, non-profit organizations and the public at large.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.