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Article for *Association of Minnesota Counties*

Council on Local Results and Innovation Convenes

By Rebecca Otto, State Auditor

The Council on Local Results and Innovation held its first meeting in September. The Council was created in statute during the 2010 legislative session to establish a standard set of performance measures for counties, as well as a set for cities. In addition, the statute encourages the Council to promote the use of performance measurements for governmental entities across the state and to serve as a resource for all governmental entities seeking to implement a local performance measurement system.

Council Membership

The eleven-member Council brings together key representatives from local governments and other organizations across Minnesota. In addition to the State Auditor, membership includes appointments made by House and Senate and by the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) and the League of Minnesota Cities.

The AMC appointed Katie Nerem, Assistant County Administrator of Blue Earth County, to serve on the Council. Other appointments included Tim Walsh, Scott County Community Services Director, and Patricia Coldwell, Health & Human Services Policy Analyst at the Association of Minnesota Counties.

At its first meeting the Council elected Jay Kiedrowski to serve as chair. Mr. Kiedrowski is currently a Senior Fellow of the Public and Nonprofit Leadership Center at the Humphrey Institute of the University of Minnesota.

The Work of the Council

Statute directs the Council to develop standard sets of approximately ten performance measures for counties and ten for cities by February 15, 2011. A county or city that participates in the program will report the results to its residents annually and will also file a report with the State Auditor by July 1 of each year.

Adoption of the benchmarks will be voluntary for local governments. However, cities and counties that adopt and implement the measures will be eligible for local government aid reimbursements of up to \$25,000 and exemption from certain levy limits.

The Council's meetings are open to the public, and all interested parties are welcome to attend. Council information, including the complete Council membership, meeting minutes and meeting materials are available on the Office of the State Auditor website at:

<http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20100916.000>.