

January 21, 2003

TO: Oregon Progress Board

FROM: Jeff Tryens

SUBJECT: Background for Discussion of Short Term Priorities

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The Board's challenge over the next six months is to convince the legislature that it is essential to the state. Board staff are currently involved in four approaches to make that happen.

1) 2003 Benchmark Performance Report – The Board has a statutory responsibility to report to the legislature each biennium on progress toward achieving the goals in *Oregon Shines*. Currently, we are preparing to do that by publishing a report similar to the one done in 2001. Rita Conrad is assigned exclusively to this task for the next three months. This is the Board's signature publication.

2) Performance Measure Roll-out – Jeff will play a prominent role, working with DAS, in rolling out the new agency performance measures. This will include continued analysis, interaction with Ways and Means subcommittees and preparation for the first annual performance reports due in September.

3) Governor's Performance Management Initiative – Jeff will assist DAS in developing the "performance expectations" for agency directors that are due in March. Also, Jeff and George Dunford of DAS are coordinating the outside performance measure reviews of the children and economic development sections of the budget. Other assignments, like performance measure development relating to accountability, may be forthcoming.

4) Respond to Requests from the Legislature – Typically, the Board responds to numerous requests for information during the session. This is one of the best ways members have to get to know the Board's work. Jeff will also submit an analysis of how well counties are achieving their outcomes as required by SB555 (1999).

As you know, the Board no longer has a data analyst. As a result I am recommending that the Board eliminate production of the *2003 Benchmark Blue Book*. Staff may also have to assume additional duties to raise the \$60,000 that is needed to operate through the end of the biennium.

From a strategic perspective, I am concerned that the Board's critics do not value the Board's most prominent product, the 2003 Benchmark Performance Report. On the other hand many Board supporters would be very disappointed if a substantial benchmark update was not forthcoming.

This is a lot for Board staff to accomplish in the coming months. One option for the Board to consider is publishing a much shorter Benchmark Performance Report, similar to the one done in 1997, followed by a meaty analysis of the linkages between agency performance measures and benchmarks in the governor's priority areas – economic development and children. That would combine some of the activities described above and, perhaps, make the analysis more useful in the long term.