



COMPLIANCE REVIEW REPORT

CALIFORNIA HEALTH FACILITIES FINANCING AUTHORITY

Compliance Review Unit
State Personnel Board
June 28, 2024

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INTRODUCTION

Established by the California Constitution, the State Personnel Board (the SPB or Board) is charged with enforcing and administering the civil service statutes, prescribing probationary periods and classifications, adopting regulations, and reviewing disciplinary actions and merit-related appeals. The SPB oversees the merit-based recruitment and selection process for the hiring of over 200,000 state employees. These employees provide critical services to the people of California, including but not limited to, protecting life and property, managing emergency operations, providing education, promoting the public health, and preserving the environment. The SPB provides direction to departments through the Board's decisions, rules, policies, and consultation.

Pursuant to Government Code section 18661, the SPB's Compliance Review Unit (CRU) conducts compliance reviews of appointing authorities' personnel practices in five areas: examinations, appointments, equal employment opportunity (EEO), personal services contracts (PSC's), and mandated training, to ensure compliance with civil service laws and Board regulations. The purpose of these reviews is to ensure state agencies are in compliance with merit related laws, rules, and policies and to identify and share best practices identified during the reviews.

Pursuant to Government Code section 18502, subdivision (c), the SPB and the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) may "delegate, share, or transfer between them responsibilities for programs within their respective jurisdictions pursuant to an agreement." SPB and CalHR, by mutual agreement, expanded the scope of program areas to be audited to include more operational practices that have been delegated to departments and for which CalHR provides policy direction. Many of these delegated practices are cost drivers to the state and were not being monitored on a statewide basis.

As such, SPB also conducts compliance reviews of appointing authorities' personnel practices to ensure that state departments are appropriately managing the following non-merit-related personnel functions: compensation and pay, leave, and policy and processes. These reviews will help to avoid and prevent potential costly litigation related to improper personnel practices, and deter waste, fraud, and abuse.

The SPB conducts these reviews on a three-year cycle.

The CRU may also conduct special investigations in response to a specific request or when the SPB obtains information suggesting a potential merit-related violation.

It should be noted that this report only contains findings from this hiring authority's compliance review. Other issues found in SPB appeals and special investigations as well as audit and review findings by other agencies such as the CalHR and the California State Auditor are reported elsewhere.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The CRU conducted a routine compliance review of the California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA) personnel practices in the areas of examinations, appointments, EEO, PSC's, mandated training, compensation and pay, leave, and policy and processes. The following table summarizes the compliance review findings:

Area	Severity	Finding
Examinations	In Compliance	Examination Complied with Civil Service Laws and Board Rules
Examinations	In Compliance	Permanent Withhold Action Complied with Civil Service Laws and Board Rules
Appointments	In Compliance	Appointments Complied with Civil Service Laws and Board Rules
Equal Employment Opportunity	In Compliance	Equal Employment Opportunity Program Complied with All Civil Services Laws and Board Rules
Personal Services Contracts	In Compliance	Personal Services Contracts Complied with Procedural Requirements
Mandated Training	In Compliance	Mandated Training Complied with Statutory Requirements
Compensation and Pay	In Compliance	Salary Determinations Complied with Civil Service Laws, Board Rules, and CalHR Policies and Guidelines
Compensation and Pay	In Compliance	Exception to Salary Rules Complied with Civil Service Laws, Board Rules, and CalHR Policies and Guidelines
Leave	In Compliance	Positive Paid Employee's Tracked Hours Complied with Civil Service Laws, Board Rules, and/or CalHR Policies and Guidelines

Area	Severity	Finding
Leave	In Compliance	Administrative Time Off Authorizations Complied with Civil Service Laws, Board Rules, and/or CalHR Policies and Guidelines
Leave	In Compliance	Leave Auditing and Timekeeping Complied with Civil Service Laws, Board Rules, and/or CalHR Policies and Guidelines
Policy	In Compliance	Nepotism Policy Complied with Civil Service Laws, Board Rules, and/or CalHR Policies and Guidelines
Policy	In Compliance	Workers' Compensation Process Complied with Civil Service Laws, Board Rules, and/or CalHR Policies and Guidelines
Policy	In Compliance	Performance Appraisal Policy and Processes Complied with Civil Service Laws and Regulations and CalHR Policies and Guidelines

BACKGROUND

The mission of the CHFFA is to help eligible and creditworthy non-profit and public health facilities reduce their cost of capital, and promote important California health access, healthcare improvement and cost containment objectives by providing cost-effective tax-exempt bond, low-cost loan, and direct grant programs. The CHFFA consists of 23 budgeted positions in 3 sections: Children’s Hospital Program, Health Facilities Bonds, Loans and Grants, and Mental Health Wellness Grants.

Eligible health facilities participate in Bond Financing Programs with access to low interest rate capital markets through the issuance of tax-exempt and taxable revenue bonds. In addition, the CHFFA offers a Tax-Exempt Equipment Financing Program that provides eligible health facilities with access to tax-exempt, fixed-rate financing for equipment purchases. Lastly, the CHFFA offers a Loan Program that is designed to provide smaller health facilities with financing for capital project needs through low-cost loans. The CHFFA also administers a number of grant programs for specific types of health facilities. The State Treasurer’s Office performs human resources operations for the CHFFA.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The scope of the compliance review was limited to reviewing the CHFFA's examinations, appointments, EEO program, PSC's, mandated training, compensation and pay, leave, and policy and processes¹. The primary objective of the review was to determine if the CHFFA's personnel practices, policies, and procedures complied with state civil service laws and Board regulations, Bargaining Unit Agreements, CalHR policies and guidelines, CalHR Delegation Agreements, and to recommend corrective action where deficiencies were identified.

A cross-section of the CHFFA's examinations was selected for review to ensure that samples of various examination types, classifications, and levels were reviewed. The CRU examined the documentation that the CHFFA provided, which included examination plans, examination bulletins, job analyses, and scoring results. The CRU also reviewed the CHFFA's permanent withhold action documentation, including Withhold Determination Worksheet, State application (STD 678), class specification, and withhold letter.

A cross-section of the CHFFA's appointments was selected for review to ensure that samples of various appointment types, classifications, and levels were reviewed. The CRU examined the documentation that the CHFFA provided, which included Notice of Personnel Action forms, Request for Personnel Actions, vacancy postings, certification lists, transfer movement worksheets, employment history records, correspondence, and probation reports. The CHFFA did not conduct any unlawful appointment investigations during the compliance review period.

Additionally, the CHFFA did not make any additional appointments during the compliance review period.

The CHFFA's appointments were also selected for review to ensure the CHFFA applied salary regulations accurately and correctly processed employees' compensation and pay. The CRU examined the documentation that the CHFFA provided, which included employees' employment and pay history and any other relevant documentation such as certifications, degrees, and/or the appointee's application.

¹ Timeframes of the compliance review varied depending on the area of review. Please refer to each section for specific compliance review timeframes.

During the compliance review period, the CHFFA did not issue or authorize hiring above minimum requests, red circle rate requests, arduous pay, bilingual pay, monthly pay differentials, alternate range movements or out-of-class assignments.

The review of the CHFFA's EEO program included examining written EEO policies and procedures; the EEO Officer's role, duties, and reporting relationship; the internal discrimination complaint process; the reasonable accommodation program; the discrimination complaint process; and the Disability Advisory Committee.

The CHFFA's PSC's were also reviewed.² It was beyond the scope of the compliance review to make conclusions as to whether the CHFFA's justifications for the contracts were legally sufficient. The review was limited to whether the CHFFA's practices, policies, and procedures relative to PSC's complied with procedural requirements.

The CHFFA's mandated training program was reviewed to ensure all employees required to file statements of economic interest were provided ethics training, that all supervisors, managers, and those serving in Career Executive Assignments (CEA) were provided leadership and development training, and that all employees were provided sexual harassment prevention training within statutory timelines.

The CRU reviewed the CHFFA's monthly internal audit process to verify all leave input into any leave accounting system was keyed accurately and timely and ensure the department certified that all leave records have been reviewed and corrected if necessary. The CRU selected a small cross-section of the CHFFA's units in order to ensure they maintained accurate and timely leave accounting records. During the compliance review period, the CHFFA did not have any employees with non-qualifying pay period transactions.

Additionally, the CRU reviewed a selection of the CHFFA employees who used Administrative Time Off (ATO) in order to ensure that ATO was appropriately administered. Further, the CRU reviewed a CHFFA positive paid employee whose hours are tracked during the compliance review period in order to ensure that they adhered to procedural requirements.

²If an employee organization requests the SPB to review any personal services contract during the SPB compliance review period or prior to the completion of the final compliance review report, the SPB will not audit the contract. Instead, the SPB will review the contract pursuant to its statutory and regulatory process. In this instance, none of the reviewed PSC's were challenged.

Moreover, the CRU reviewed the CHFFA’s policies and processes concerning nepotism, workers’ compensation, and performance appraisals. The review was limited to whether the CDTFA’s policies and processes adhered to procedural requirements.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Examinations

Examinations to establish an eligible list must be competitive and of such character as fairly to test and determine the qualifications, fitness, and ability of competitors to perform the duties of the class of position for which he or she seeks appointment. (Gov. Code, § 18930.) Examinations may be assembled or unassembled, written or oral, or in the form of a demonstration of skills, or any combination of those tests. (*Ibid.*) The Board establishes minimum qualifications for determining the fitness and qualifications of employees for each class of position and for applicants for examinations. (Gov. Code, § 18931, subd. (a).) Within a reasonable time before the scheduled date for the examination, the designated appointing power shall announce or advertise the examination for the establishment of eligible lists. (Gov. Code, § 18933, subd. (a).) The advertisement shall contain such information as the date and place of the examination and the nature of the minimum qualifications. (*Ibid.*) Every applicant for examination shall file an application with the department or a designated appointing power as directed by the examination announcement. (Gov. Code, § 18934, subd. (a)(1).) The final earned rating of each person competing in any examination is to be determined by the weighted average of the earned ratings on all phases of the examination. (Gov. Code, § 18936.) Each competitor shall be notified in writing of the results of the examination when the employment list resulting from the examination is established. (Gov. Code, § 18938.5.)

During the period under review, January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, the CHFFA conducted one examination. The CRU reviewed this examination, which is listed below:

Classification	Exam Type	Exam Components	Final File Date	No. of Apps
CEA, Deputy Executive Director, Level A	CEA	Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) ³	3/29/2023	2

³ In a Statement of Qualifications examination, applicants submit a written summary of their qualifications and experience related to a published list of desired qualifications. Raters, typically subject matter experts, evaluate the responses according to a predetermined rating scale designed to assess their ability to perform in a job classification, assign scores and rank the competitors in a list.

IN COMPLIANCE	FINDING NO. 1 EXAMINATION COMPLIED WITH CIVIL SERVICE LAWS AND BOARD RULES
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The CRU reviewed one open examination which the CHFFA administered in order to create eligible lists from which to make appointments. The CHFFA published and distributed examination bulletins containing the required information for all examinations. Applications received by the CHFFA were accepted prior to the final filing date. Applicants were notified about the next phase of the examination process. After all phases of the examination process were completed, the score of each competitor was computed, and a list of eligible candidates was established. The examination results listed the names of all successful competitors arranged in order of the score received by rank. The CRU found no deficiencies in the examination that the CHFFA conducted during the compliance review period.

Permanent Withhold Actions

Departments are granted statutory authority to permit withhold of eligibles from lists based on specified criteria. (Gov. Code, § 18935.) Permanent appointments and promotions within the state civil service system shall be merit-based, ascertained by a competitive examination process. (Cal. Const., art. VII, § 1, subd. (b).) If a candidate for appointment is found not to satisfy the minimum qualifications, the appointing power shall provide written notice to the candidate, specifying which qualification(s) are not satisfied and the reason(s) why. The candidate shall have an opportunity to establish that s/he meets the qualifications. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 249.4, subd. (b).) If the candidate fails to respond or fails to establish that s/he meets the minimum qualification(s), the candidate’s name shall be removed from the eligibility list. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 249.4, subd. (b)(1), (2)), (HR Manual, section 1105.) The appointing authority shall promptly notify the candidate in writing and shall notify the candidate of his or her appeal rights. (*Ibid.*) A permanent withhold does not necessarily permanently restrict a candidate from retaking the examination for the same classification in the future; however, the appointing authority may place a withhold on the candidate’s subsequent eligibility record if the candidate still does not meet the minimum qualifications or continues to be unsuitable. (HR Manual, Section 1105). State agency human resources offices are required to maintain specific withhold documentation for a period of five years. (*Ibid.*)

During the period under review, January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, the CHFFA conducted one permanent withhold action. The CRU reviewed this permanent withhold action, which is listed below:

Exam Title	Exam ID	Date List Eligibility Began	Date List Eligibility Ended	Reason Candidate Placed on Withhold
Associate Governmental Program Analyst	9PB04	7/10/2023	7/10/2024	Failed to Meet Minimum Qualifications

IN COMPLIANCE	FINDING NO. 2	PERMANENT WITHHOLD ACTION COMPLIED WITH CIVIL SERVICE LAWS AND BOARD RULES
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The CRU found no deficiencies in the permanent withhold action undertaken by the department during the compliance review period.

Appointments

In all cases not excepted or exempted by Article VII of the California Constitution, the appointing power must fill positions by appointment, including cases of transfers, reinstatements, promotions, and demotions in strict accordance with the Civil Service Act and Board rules. (Gov. Code, § 19050.) The hiring process for eligible candidates chosen for job interviews shall be competitive and be designed and administered to hire candidates who will be successful. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 250, subd. (b).) Interviews shall be conducted using job-related criteria. (*Ibid.*) Persons selected for appointment shall satisfy the minimum qualifications of the classification to which he or she is appointed or have previously passed probation and achieved permanent status in that same classification. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 250, subd. (d).) While persons selected for appointment may meet some or most of the preferred or desirable qualifications, they are not required to meet all the preferred or desirable qualifications. (*Ibid.*) This section does not apply to intra-agency job reassignments. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 250, subd. (e).)

During the period under review, January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, the CHFFA made 10 appointments. The CRU reviewed 5 of those appointments, which are listed below:

Classification	Appointment Type	Tenure	Time Base	No. of Appts.
Office Technician (Typing)	Certification List	Permanent	Full Time	1
Staff Services Analyst (General)	Certification List	Permanent	Full Time	1
Associate Governmental Program Analyst	Transfer	Permanent	Full Time	1

Classification	Appointment Type	Tenure	Time Base	No. of Appts.
Staff Services Analyst (General)	Transfer	Permanent	Full Time	2

IN COMPLIANCE	FINDING NO. 3 APPOINTMENTS COMPLIED WITH CIVIL SERVICE LAWS AND BOARD RULES
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The CHFFA measured each applicant’s ability to perform the duties of the job by conducting hiring interviews and selecting the best-suited candidates. For each of the two list appointments reviewed, the CHFFA ordered a certification list of candidates ranked competitively. After properly clearing the certification lists including SROA, the selected candidates were appointed based on eligibility attained by being reachable within the first three ranks of the certification lists.

The CRU reviewed three CHFFA appointments made via transfer. A transfer of an employee from a position under one appointing power to a position under another appointing power may be made if the transfer is to a position in the same class or in another class with substantially the same salary range and designated as appropriate by the executive officer. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 425.) The CHFFA verified the eligibility of each candidate to their appointed class.

The CRU found no deficiencies in the appointments that the CHFFA initiated during the compliance review period. Accordingly, the CRU found that the CHFFA’s appointments processes and procedures utilized during the compliance review period satisfied civil service laws and Board rules.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Each state agency is responsible for an effective EEO program. (Gov. Code, § 19790.) The appointing power for each state agency has the major responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of its EEO program. (Gov. Code, § 19794.) To that end, the appointing power must issue a policy statement committed to EEO; issue procedures for filing, processing, and resolving discrimination complaints; and cooperate with the CalHR, in accordance with Civil Code section 1798.24, subdivisions (o) and (p), by providing access to all required files, documents and data necessary to carry out these mandates. (*Ibid.*) In addition, the appointing power must appoint, at the managerial level, an EEO Officer, who shall report directly to, and be under the supervision of, the director of the department

to develop, implement, coordinate, and monitor the department's EEO program. (Gov. Code, § 19795, subd. (a).)

Pursuant to Government Code section 19795, subdivision (a), in a state agency with less than 500 employees, like CHFFA, the EEO Officer may be the Personnel Officer.

Each state agency must establish a separate committee of employees who are individuals with a disability, or who have an interest in disability issues, to advise the head of the agency on issues of concern to employees with disabilities. (Gov. Code, § 19795, subd. (b)(1).) The department must invite all employees to serve on the committee and take appropriate steps to ensure that the final committee is comprised of members who have disabilities or who have an interest in disability issues. (Gov. Code, § 19795, subd. (b)(2).)

IN COMPLIANCE	FINDING NO. 4 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM COMPLIED WITH ALL CIVIL SERVICE LAWS AND BOARD RULES
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After reviewing the policies, procedures, and programs necessary for compliance with the EEO program's role and responsibilities according to statutory and regulatory guidelines, the CRU determined that the CHFFA's EEO program provided employees with information and guidance on the EEO process including instructions on how to file discrimination claims. Furthermore, the EEO program outlines the roles and responsibilities of the EEO Officer, as well as supervisors and managers. The EEO Officer, who is at a managerial level, reports directly to the Executive Director of the CHFFA. The CHFFA also provided evidence of its efforts to promote EEO in its hiring and employment practices and to increase its hiring of persons with a disability.

Personal Services Contracts

A PSC includes any contract, requisition, or purchase order under which labor or personal services is a significant, separately identifiable element, and the business or person performing the services is an independent contractor that does not have status as an employee of the state. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 547.59.) The California Constitution has an implied civil service mandate limiting the state's authority to contract with private entities to perform services the state has historically or customarily performed. Government Code section 19130, subdivision (a), however, codifies exceptions to the civil service mandate where PSC's achieve cost savings for the state. PSC's that are of a type enumerated in subdivision (b) of Government Code section 19130 are also permissible. Subdivision (b) contracts include, but are not limited to, private contracts for

a new state function, services that are not available within state service, services that are incidental to a contract for the purchase or lease of real or personal property, and services that are of an urgent, temporary, or occasional nature.

For cost-savings PSC's, a state agency is required to notify SPB of its intent to execute such a contract. (Gov. Code, § 19131.) For subdivision (b) contracts, the SPB reviews the adequacy of the proposed or executed contract at the request of an employee organization representing state employees. (Gov. Code, § 19132.)

During the period under review, January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, the CHFFA had four PSC's that were in effect. The CRU reviewed all of those, which are listed below:

Vendor	Services	Contract Amount	Justification Identified?	Union Notification?
Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP	Disclosure Counsel advice and representation on insured bond financing	\$60,000	Yes	Yes
Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP	Issuer's Counsel advice and representation in connection with bond financing	\$150,000	Yes	Yes
Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP	Special Counsel to CHFFA for the Distressed Hospital Loan Program	\$300,000	Yes	Yes
Tap International, Inc.	Financial review and analysis related to CHFFA program operations	\$250,000	Yes	Yes

IN COMPLIANCE	FINDING NO. 5 PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS COMPLIED WITH PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS
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The total dollar amount of all the PSC's reviewed was \$760,000. It was beyond the scope of the review to make conclusions as to whether CHFFA justifications for the contract were legally sufficient. For all PSC's reviewed, the CHFFA provided specific and detailed factual information in the written justifications as to how each of the contracts met at least one condition set forth in Government Code section 19130, subdivision (b). Additionally, CHFFA complied with proper notification to all organizations that represent state employees who perform or could perform the type or work contracted as required by

California Code of Regulations section 547.60.2. Accordingly, the CHFFA PSC's complied with civil service laws and board rules.

Mandated Training

Each member, officer, or designated employee of a state agency who is required to file a statement of economic interest (referred to as "filers") because of the position he or she holds with the agency is required to take an orientation course on the relevant ethics statutes and regulations that govern the official conduct of state officials. (Gov. Code, §§ 11146 & 11146.1.) State agencies are required to offer filers the orientation course on a semi-annual basis. (Gov. Code, § 11146.1.) New filers must be trained within six months of appointment and at least once during each consecutive period of two calendar years, commencing on the first odd-numbered year thereafter. (Gov. Code, § 11146.3.)

Upon the initial appointment of any employee designated in a supervisory position, the employee shall be provided a minimum of 80 hours of training, as prescribed by the CalHR. (Gov. Code, § 19995.4, subd. (b).) The training addresses such topics as the role of the supervisor, techniques of supervision, performance standards, and sexual harassment and abusive conduct prevention. (Gov. Code, §§ 12950.1, subds. (a) and (b), & 19995.4, subd. (b).) Additionally, the training must be successfully completed within the term of the employee's probationary period or within six months of the initial appointment, unless it is demonstrated that to do so creates additional costs or that the training cannot be completed during this time period due to limited availability of supervisory training courses. (Gov. Code, § 19995.4, subd. (c).)

Within 12 months of the initial appointment of an employee to a management or CEA position, the employee shall be provided leadership training and development, as prescribed by CalHR. (Gov. Code, § 19995.4, subds. (d) & (e).) For management employees the training must be a minimum of 40 hours and for CEAs the training must be a minimum of 20 hours. (*Ibid.*)

New employees must be provided sexual harassment prevention training within six months of appointment. Thereafter, each department must provide its supervisors two hours of sexual harassment prevention training and non-supervisors one hour of sexual harassment prevention training every two years. (Gov. Code, § 12950.1, subds. (a) and (b); Gov. Code, § 19995.4.)

The Board may conduct reviews of any appointing power's personnel practices to ensure compliance with civil service laws and Board regulations. (Gov. Code, § 18661, subd.

(a.) In particular, the Board may audit personnel practices related to such matters as selection and examination procedures, appointments, promotions, the management of probationary periods, and any other area related to the operation of the merit principle in state civil service. (*Ibid.*) Accordingly, the CRU reviews documents and records related to training that appointing powers are required by the afore-cited laws to provide its employees.

The CRU reviewed the CHFFA’s mandated training program that was in effect during the compliance review period, January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2023. The CHFFA’s ethics, supervisory and sexual harassment prevention training was found to be in compliance.

IN COMPLIANCE	FINDING NO. 6	MANDATED TRAINING COMPLIED WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS
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The CHFFA provided ethics training to its one new filer within six months of appointment and, for five existing filers, “at least once during each consecutive period of two calendar years, commencing on the first odd-numbered year thereafter.” The CHFFA also provided supervisory training to its one new supervisor within 12 months of appointment. In addition, the CHFFA provided sexual harassment prevention training to its one new supervisor within six months of appointment, and sexual harassment prevention training to its five existing supervisors every two years. Thus, the CHFFA complied with mandated training requirements within statutory timelines.

Compensation and Pay

Salary Determination

The pay plan for state civil service consists of salary ranges and steps established by CalHR. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 599.666.) Several salary rules dictate how departments calculate and determine an employee’s salary rate⁴ upon appointment depending on the appointment type, the employee’s state employment and pay history, and tenure.

Typically, agencies appoint employees to the minimum rate of the salary range for the class. Special provisions for appointments above the minimum exist to meet special recruitment needs and to accommodate employees who transfer into a class from another civil service class and are already receiving salaries above the minimum.

⁴ “Rate” is any one of the salary rates in the resolution by CalHR which establishes the salary ranges and steps of the Pay Plan (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, section 599.666).

During the period under review, January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, the CHFFA made 10 appointments. The CRU reviewed two of those appointments to determine if the CHFFA applied salary regulations accurately and correctly processed employees' compensation, which are listed below:

Classification	Appointment Type	Tenure	Time Base	Salary (Monthly Rate)
Associate Governmental Program Analyst	Certification List	Permanent	Full Time	\$5,518
Staff Services Analyst (General)	Certification List	Permanent	Full Time	\$4,588

IN COMPLIANCE	FINDING NO. 7 SALARY DETERMINATIONS COMPLIED WITH CIVIL SERVICE LAWS, BOARD RULES, AND CALHR POLICIES AND GUIDELINES
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The CRU found no deficiencies in the salary determinations that were reviewed. The CHFFA appropriately calculated and keyed the salaries for each appointment and correctly determined employees' anniversary dates ensuring that subsequent merit salary adjustments will satisfy civil service laws, Board rules and CalHR policies and guidelines.

Exceptions to Salary

California Code of Regulations sections 599.674 and 599.676 allow employees to receive a salary rate up to one step (5%) above the salary rate they last received. In those instances when these rules do not provide employees with the equivalent rate last received (1) upon transfer to a deep class or (2) in their former class, then under the authority of Government Code section 19836, an exception to these salary rules can be made. Exceptions to these rules should be applied uniformly for all employees. (Classification and Pay Guide Section 285.)

For those affected employees incurring salary loss upon transfer to a deep class, CalHR recommends placing the employee on a T&D Assignment for a period of time sufficient to meet the higher alternate range criteria. Upon successful completion of the T&D assignment, the employee may be transferred to the transferable range, and then moved to the next higher alternate range effective the same day. If this does not provide the employee their current salary, departments may process an exception so the employee does not incur a salary loss. (*Ibid.*)

Delegation agreements with CalHR give departments the delegated authority to approve an exception to the salary rules under the following circumstances: when there is a salary loss upon transfer to a deep class, when there is a reappointment or reinstatement without a break in service.

During the period under review, January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, the CHFFA authorized one salary exception request. The CRU reviewed this authorized salary exception request, listed below, to determine if the CHFFA correctly verified, approved and documented the salary exception authorization process:

Classification	Prior Classification	T&D Assignment?	Approved Salary
Staff Services Manager I	Staff Services Manager I	No	\$8,153

IN COMPLIANCE	FINDING NO. 8 EXCEPTION TO SALARY RULES COMPLIED WITH CIVIL SERVICE LAWS, BOARD RULES, AND CALHR POLICIES AND GUIDELINES
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The CRU found that the exception to salary determination the CHFFA made during the compliance review period, satisfied civil service laws, Board rules and CalHR policies and guidelines.

Leave

Positive Paid Employees

Actual Time Worked (ATW) is a method that can be used to keep track of a Temporary Authorization Utilization (TAU) employee’s time to ensure that the Constitutional limit of 9 months in any 12 consecutive months is not exceeded. The ATW method of counting time is used to continue the employment status for an employee until the completion of an examination, for seasonal type work, while attending school, or for consulting services.

An employee is appointed TAU-ATW when he/she is not expected to work all the working days of a month. When counting 189 days, every day worked, including partial days⁵ worked and paid absences⁶, are counted. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 265.1, subd. (b).) The hours worked in one day are not limited by this rule. (*Ibid.*) The 12-consecutive month timeframe begins by counting the first pay period worked as the first month of the 12-

⁵ For example, two hours or ten hours count as one day.

⁶ For example, vacation, sick leave, compensating time off, etc.

consecutive month timeframe. (*Ibid.*) The employee shall serve no longer than 189 days in a 12 consecutive month period. (*Ibid.*) A new 189-days working limit in a 12-consecutive month timeframe may begin in the month immediately following the month that marks the end of the previous 12-consecutive month timeframe. (*Ibid.*)

It is an ATW appointment because the employee does not work each workday of the month, and it might become desirable or necessary for the employee to work beyond nine calendar months. The appointing power shall monitor and control the days worked to ensure the limitations set forth are not exceeded. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 265.1, subd. (f).)

For student assistants, graduate student assistants, youth aides, and seasonal classifications a maximum work-time limit of 1500 hours within 12 consecutive months may be used rather than the 189-day calculation. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 265.1, subd. (d).)

Additionally, according to Government Code section 21224, retired annuitant appointments shall not exceed a maximum of 960 hours in any fiscal year (July-June), regardless of the number of state employers, without reinstatement, loss or interruption of benefits.

At the time of the review, the CHFFA had one positive paid employee whose hours were tracked. The CRU reviewed the one positive paid appointment to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policies and guidelines, which is listed below:

Classification	Tenure	Time Frame	Time Worked
Treasury Program Manager I	Retired Annuitant	7/1/2023 – 6/30/2024	431.50

IN COMPLIANCE	FINDING NO. 9 POSITIVE PAID EMPLOYEE’S TRACKED HOURS COMPLIED WITH CIVIL SERVICE LAWS, BOARD RULES, AND/OR CALHR POLICIES AND GUIDELINES
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The CRU found no deficiencies in the positive paid employee reviewed during the compliance review period. The CHFFA provided sufficient justification and adhered to applicable laws, regulations and CalHR policy and guidelines for positive paid employees.

Administrative Time Off

ATO is a form of paid administrative leave status initiated by appointing authorities for a variety of reasons. (Human Resources Manual Section 2121.) Most often, ATO is used when an employee cannot come to work because of a pending investigation, fitness for duty evaluation, or when work facilities are unavailable. (*Ibid.*) ATO can also be granted when employees need time off for reasons such as blood or organ donation, extreme weather preventing safe travel to work, states of emergency, voting, and when employees need time off to attend special events. (*Ibid.*)

During the period under review, October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, the CHFFA authorized 15 ATO transactions. The CRU reviewed 14 of these ATO transactions to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and CalHR policy and guidelines, which are listed below:

Classification	Time Frame	Amount of Time on ATO
Associate Governmental Program Analyst	11/30/2022 and 12/30/2022	8 hours
Associate Governmental Program Analyst	12/27/2022	4 hours
Associate Governmental Program Analyst	12/30/2022	4 hours
Associate Governmental Program Analyst	12/30/2022	4 hours
Associate Governmental Program Analyst	12/27/2022	4 hours
Executive Assistant	12/27/2022	4 hours
Executive Director	1/20/2023	4 hours
Staff Services Analyst (General)	12/23/2022	4 hours
Staff Services Analyst (General)	12/30/2022	4 hours
Staff Services Analyst (General)	5/31/2023	4 hours
Staff Services Manager I	1/3/2024	4 hours
Staff Services Manager I	1/11/2023	4 hours
Staff Services Manager II	1/3/2024	4 hours
Staff Services Manager II	5/1/2023	4 hours

IN COMPLIANCE	FINDING NO. 10 ADMINISTRATIVE TIME OFF AUTHORIZATIONS COMPLIED WITH CIVIL SERVICE LAWS, BOARD RULES, AND/OR CALHR POLICIES AND GUIDELINES
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The CRU found no deficiencies in the ATO transactions reviewed during the compliance review period. The CHFFA provided the proper documentation justifying the use of ATO and adhered to applicable laws, regulations and CalHR policy and guidelines.

Leave Auditing and Timekeeping

Departments must keep complete and accurate time and attendance records for each employee and officer employed within the agency over which it has jurisdiction. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 599.665.)

Departments are directed to create a monthly internal audit process to verify all leave input into any leave accounting system is keyed accurately and timely. (Human Resources Manual Section 2101.) Departments shall create an audit process to review and correct leave input errors on a monthly basis. The review of leave accounting records shall be completed by the pay period following the pay period in which the leave was keyed into the leave accounting system. (*Ibid.*) If an employee's attendance record is determined to have errors or it is determined that the employee has insufficient balances for a leave type used, the attendance record must be amended. (*Ibid.*) Attendance records shall be corrected by the pay period following the pay period in which the error occurred. (*Ibid.*) Accurate and timely attendance reporting is required of all departments and is subject to audit. (*Ibid.*)

During the period under review, July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, the CHFFA reported 2 units comprised of 18 active employees. The pay periods and timesheets reviewed by the CRU are summarized below:

Timesheet Leave Period	Unit Reviewed	No. of Employees	No. of Timesheets Reviewed	No. of Missing Timesheets
July 2023	001	15	15	0
July 2023	002	3	3	0
August 2023	001	14	14	0
August 2023	002	3	3	0
September 2023	001	14	14	0
September 2023	002	3	3	0

IN COMPLIANCE	FINDING NO. 11	LEAVE AUDITING AND TIMEKEEPING COMPLIED WITH CIVIL SERVICE LAWS, BOARD RULES, AND/OR CALHR POLICIES AND GUIDELINES
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The CRU reviewed employee leave records from three different leave periods to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations and CalHR policy and guidelines. Based on our review, the CRU found no deficiencies. The CHHFA kept complete and accurate time and attendance records for each employee and officer employed within the department

and utilized a monthly internal audit process to verify all leave input into any leave accounting system was keyed accurately and timely.

Policy and Processes

Nepotism

It is the policy of the State of California to hire, transfer, and promote all employees on the basis of merit and fitness in accordance with civil service statutes, rules and regulations. Nepotism is expressly prohibited in the state workplace because it is antithetical to California’s merit based civil service. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 87.) (*Ibid.*) All appointing powers shall adopt an anti-nepotism policy that includes the following components: (1) a statement that the appointing power is committed to merit-based hiring and that nepotism is antithetical to a merit-based civil service system; (2) a definition of “nepotism” as an employee’s use of influence or power to hire, transfer, or promote an applicant or employee because of a personal relationship; (3) a definition of “personal relationship” as persons related by blood, adoption, current or former marriage, domestic partnership or cohabitation; (4) a statement that prohibits participation in the selection of an applicant for employment by anyone who has a personal relationship with the applicant, as defined in section 83.6; (5) a statement that prohibits the direct or first-line supervision of an employee with whom the supervisor has a personal relationship, as defined in section 83.6; (6) a process for addressing issues of direct supervision when personal relationships between employees exist. (*Ibid.*)

IN COMPLIANCE	FINDING NO. 12 NEPOTISM POLICY COMPLIED WITH CIVIL SERVICE LAWS, BOARD RULES, AND/OR CALHR POLICIES AND GUIDELINES
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The CRU verified that the policy was disseminated to all staff and emphasized the CHFFA’s commitment to the state policy of hiring, transferring, and promoting employees on the basis of merit. Additionally, the CHFFA’s nepotism policy was comprised of specific and sufficient components intended to prevent favoritism, or bias, based on a personal relationship from unduly influencing employment decisions.

Workers’ Compensation

Employers shall provide to every new employee, either at the time of hire or by the end of the first pay period, written notice concerning the rights, benefits, and obligations under workers’ compensation law. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 9880, subd. (a).) This notice shall

include the right to predesignate their personal physician or medical group; a form that the employee may use as an optional method for notifying the employer of the name of employee’s “personal physician,” as defined by Labor Code section 4600. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 9880, subd. (c)(7) & (8).) Additionally, within one working day of receiving notice or knowledge that the employee has suffered a work-related injury or illness, employers shall provide a claim form and notice of potential eligibility for benefits to the injured employee. (Labor Code, § 5401, subd. (a).)

Public employers may choose to extend workers' compensation coverage to volunteers that perform services for the organization. (Human Resources Manual Section 1415.) Workers’ compensation coverage is not mandatory for volunteers as it is for employees. (*Ibid.*) This is specific to the legally uninsured state departments participating in the Master Agreement. (*Ibid.*) Departments with an insurance policy for workers’ compensation coverage should contact their State Compensation Insurance Fund (State Fund) office to discuss the status of volunteers. (*Ibid.*)

In this case, the CHFFA did not employ volunteers during the compliance review period.

IN COMPLIANCE	FINDING NO. 13 WORKERS’ COMPENSATION PROCESS COMPLIED WITH CIVIL SERVICE LAWS, BOARD RULES, AND/OR CALHR POLICIES AND GUIDELINES
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The CRU verified that the CHFFA provides notice to their employees to inform them of their rights and responsibilities under California’s Workers’ Compensation Law. Furthermore, the CRU verified that when the CHFFA received workers’ compensation claims, they properly provided claim forms within one working day of notice or knowledge of injury.

Performance Appraisals

According to Government Code section 19992.2, subdivision (a), appointing powers must “prepare performance reports.” Furthermore, California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 599.798, directs supervisors to conduct written performance appraisals and discuss overall work performance with permanent employees at least once in each twelve calendar months after the completion of the employee’s probationary period.

The CRU selected four permanent CHFFA employees to ensure that the department was conducting performance appraisals on an annual basis in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, and guidelines.

IN COMPLIANCE	FINDING NO. 14 PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL POLICY AND PROCESSES COMPLIED WITH CIVIL SERVICE LAWS, BOARD RULES, AND CALHR POLICIES AND GUIDELINES
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The CRU found no deficiencies in the performance appraisals selected for review. Accordingly, the CHFFA performance appraisal policy and processes satisfied civil service laws, Board rules, policies and guidelines.

DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSE

The CHFFA was found to be in compliance in all areas reviewed during the compliance review period. Therefore, no departmental response is required, and no additional follow-up activities are warranted.