

MARTIN ♦ STARNES & ASSOCIATES, CPAs, P.A.

"A Professional Association of Certified Public Accountants and Management Consultants"

Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of Financial Statements Performed In Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*

Board of Commissioners
Cabarrus County, North Carolina

We have audited the basic financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Cabarrus County, North Carolina, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2011, not presented here, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated October 26, 2011. 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 *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The financial statements of the Cabarrus Health Alliance were not audited in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management of Cabarrus County is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting. In planning and performing our audit, we considered Cabarrus County's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over financial reporting.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a significant deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the County's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in the internal control over financial reporting that might be deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Cabarrus County's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants agreements, non-compliance with which could have a direct and material effect on 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 such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of non-compliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of County Commissioners and management of Cabarrus County, North Carolina, federal and State awarding agencies, and pass-through entities, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Martin Starnes & Associates, CPAs, P.A.

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October 26, 2011