Modernize Maryland Commission
August 12, 2024
Minutes

Sara Elalamy, Legislative Director for DoIT, called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

Roll Call

Voting Members Present:
- Manoj Srivastava, Chair, Chief Technology Officer, Blackpoint Cyber
- Patrick Mulford, Secretary's designee, Chief of Staff, DoIT
- Ken Kurz, Chief Info. Officer at COPT Defense Properties
- Michael Piercy, Senior Advisor for Program Innovation, to the CTO of MD
- Mark Cather, Chief Info. Security and Privacy Officer, USM
- Andrew Drummond, Director of Accessibility, DoIT

Voting Members Not Present:
- Ken Hlavacek, Director of Cybersecurity, MD-THINK
- Stanley Lofton, Chief Info. Officer at MDPS & Correctional Services
- Greg Rogers, Chief Info. Security Officer

Non-Voting Advisory Members Present:
- Senator Katie Fry Hester
- Delegate Anne Kaiser

Others Present:
- Melissa Leaman, Deputy Secretary, DoIT
- Patrick Mulford, Chief of Staff, DoIT
- Sara Elalamy, Legislative Director, DoIT
- Rebecca Graffy, Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab
- Charles Kargman, Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab
- Robert Marshall, Legislative Affairs Intern, DoIT
- Bridget O'Toole, Legislative Director, Office of Senator Katie Fry Hester
- Damian Lang, Chief of Staff Office of Senator Katie Fry Hester
- Richard Duncan, Policy Analyst, MD Dept. of Legislative Services

Introduction:
- Presenter 1: When state procurement is broken, it can be challenging to streamline and speed up procurement.
- Presenter 2: The governor's office reached out to the GPL to explore opportunities to work together on state Procurement goals

Challenges Discussed:
- Process: The threshold for approvals from the Department of Public Works (DPW) is quite low, extending the cycle by about 45 days.
- Tracking: eMMA has not been completely implemented across state agencies, and all procurements are not tracked consistently. Consistent operations and standards need to be implemented.
- Limited Staffing: Poor role clarity can add stress and increase cycle times, placing increased stress on the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) and the Department of General Services (DGS).
- Lack of Standardization: Streamlining the purchases of IT products or services saves time and money.

Additional Research Considerations:
- Conduct surveys or focus groups to understand IT vendor challenges.

Open Discussion:
- Commission member discussed the low-cost threshold of $200k slowing procurement process down.
- Commission member discussed the importance of coordination between BPW, DGS, and DoIT
- Presenter closing remarks were focused on procurement excellence network and resources available.

Next Steps and Action Items:
1. Focus Groups and Surveys:
   - Explore using surveys or focus groups to gather data on IT vendor challenges.
2. Procurement Process Review:
   - Analyze the procurement process, focusing on the approval threshold and role clarity challenges.

Announcements:

The next meeting of the Modernize Maryland Commission (MMC) will be held on August 27, 2024 at 11 AM.