PROCUREMENT IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL (PIC)
September 12, 2023

Start Time: 1:12pm End Time: 2:39pm Location: Virtual

Members Present:

Chair, CPO	Mike Haifley	**Superintendent of Schools, Designee**	Jenna Meinl
State Treasurer, Designee, Deputy Treasurer	Cissy Blasi	**Senate Member Representative**	Senator Melony Griffith
Chancellor USM, Designee	Tom Hickey	**House of Delegates Member**	
Sec. DoIT, Designee		**Local Govt. Rep (w/Proc. Exp.)**	
Sec. MDOT, Designee, CPO	Valerie Radomsky	**Social Services**	
BPW Procurement Advisor	Gabe Gnall	**Social Services**	Sheryl Brissett Chapman
GOSBA, Designee	Alison Tavik	**Veteran Owned Business**	Joseph Giodano
Sec. of Juvenile Serv., Designee, Procurement Director	Michael Dibattista	**General Public (w/State Proc. Exp.)**	Robert Dashiell
Sec. Human Serv., Designee, Procurement Director	Nneka Willis-Gray	**Minority Owned Business**	
Sec. of Health, Designee, Procurement Director	Calvin Johnson	**Minority Owned Business**	

Guests/Attendees:

Harris Floyd	John Gontrum	Lauri McGuire	Valerie Green	Wanda Alexander
Deborah Boyce	Douglas Carrey-Beaver	Ellen Robertson	Charles Felton	Darica Lawson
Dana Reiss	Gabriel Cohee	Kristen Fleming	Talley Kovacs	Grace Edinger
Kevin Jackson	Doug Lashley	Scott Livingston	Gabrielle Leach	Jeffrey Fretwell
June Dwyer	Alison Barry	Beth Brinkley	Larry Pitts	Jeff Smolley
Nish Thakker	Christine Shorey	Constance Mangan	Danea Cohen-Ebanks	Karin White
Leahann Liacta	Robert Gleason	Shelia Pitts-Howard	Thomas Brennan	

DGS Office of State Procurement (OSP) Staff Present:

Jamie Tomaszewski Judy Urban Lisa McDonald Leslie Wodday Victoria Steeger Wallace Sermons Kristina Libby-Hinton

PIC Statutory Responsibilities -- The Council shall:

(1) Ensure that the State's procurement system is utilizing the most advanced procurement methods and management techniques, including policies, procedures, and forms for all procurement activity and contract management;

(2) Effect and enhance communication between State units on procurement matters, with an emphasis on disseminating information on current developments and advances in procurement methods and management;

(3) Provide a forum for the discussion of specific procurement issues and problems that arise, including:
- *i. Procurement officer training;*
- *ii. Risk analysis and insurance requirements;*
- *iii. Management of eMaryland Marketplace and other Internet procurement resources;*
- *iv. Use of eMaryland Marketplace and compliance with State Finance and Procurement Article (SFP) §17–502;*
- *v. Use of intergovernmental cooperative purchasing agreements; and*
- *vi. Any other issues or problems identified by the Council;*

(4) Advise the Board on problems in the procurement process and make recommendations for improvement of the process;

(5) Review existing procurement regulations to:
- *i. determine whether they fulfill the intent and purpose of the law, especially as it relates to fostering broad–based competition; and*
- *ii. make recommendations on the regulations, if revising and restructuring them will result in easier understanding and use; and*

(6) Advise the General Assembly on proposed legislation in order to enhance the efficiency and transparency of State procurement.

ITEM	AGENDA
1	Welcome & Member Attendance
2	Topics for Discussion
3	Open Discussion
4	Closing Remarks
5	Adjournment

Welcome:

Mike Haifley, Acting Chief Procurement Officer (CPO), welcomed members and guests to the meeting and announced new OSP Deputy Chief Procurement Officers, Wallace Sermons and Jamie Tomaszewski. Member attendance was taken.

Item A: Judicial Reform: Request for a Subcommittee

Mike suggested we set up a subcommittee to begin reviewing Scott Livingston's suggestions of efficiency inadequacies with the MSBCA process. Please contact Jamie Tomaszewski if you're interested in serving on this subcommittee.

Item B: Pay for Success Procurement Method

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) requested help on processes for the new Pay for Success Procurement method and shared questions around the process as well as potential issues, grant vs. contractual, third-party review, minority groups, private industry, procurement methods, fund certs, long term contracts, etc. It was suggested a subcommittee be set up, those interested should contact Jamie.Tomaszewski@maryland.gov. (Valerie, Jamie, Gabe Cohee, Talley)

Item C: PIC Work Groups

Terms and Conditions Workgroup – Judy Urban

Internal and external data has been gathered and Judy is preparing to share comments internally to decide on next steps.

Better Vendor Communications Workgroup - Valerie Radomsky

The team has been very busy preparing for the upcoming Summit and has been unable to meet. They will reconvene soon after and ask that if anyone wants to join the group, please contact Valerie at vradomsky@mdot.maryland.gov

eMMA User Entities Workgroup – Jamie Tomaszewski

Jamie reported that the team created a survey that will be sent out to collect data, this includes state, universities, school systems, and local government entities to find out any issues the "buyers" are having with meeting the requirements to post their solicitations and awards in eMMA.

MBE Workgroup – Jamie Tomaszewski

Jamie suggested this group and the Better Vendor Communication group might think about merging. A lot of the low hanging fruit and priorities the MBE workgroup has developed on are good for all vendor communications.

MBE Subcommittee – Judy Urban

The subgroup has been working on gathering various resources that the state already has. At the beginning of the subgroup session, it was identified that the state has a bunch of great resources to use, however, it's challenging to find all the resources. The committee is working on consolidating these resources into a graphic in the form of a road map. The intent is to update a web page with the roadmap that then goes and links to various resources for vendors across the state.

Item D: Maryland Procurement Academy (MDPA) Update – Victoria Steeger, PhD

Victoria informed the PIC that the average number of employed years has decreased from 9 to 6.5. For June/July/August our virtual instructor-led training has a vendor and state enrollment total of 3295 and quick reference guide download totals are 6831. We had our first in-person CMPO graduation since Covid with the DGS Secretary and COO in attendance, we also had many guest executives from other agencies.

Item E: Open Discussion

Scott Livingston joined the meeting late and reviewed his excitement over a subcommittee being assigned to discuss Judicial Reform.

Closing Remarks

Mike Haifley thanked everyone for their participation and asked for any future PIC discussion topics to be sent to jamie.tomaszewski@maryland.gov

Meeting adjourned at 2:39pm