INVESTMENTS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT & MODERNIZATION PROJECTS OVERSIGHT BOARD

Minutes

September 11, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 4th meeting of the Investments in Information Technology Improvement & Modernization Projects Oversight Board was held on September 11, 2024, at 10:00 AM in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Representative John Hodgson, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Gex Williams, Co-Chair; Representative John Hodgson, Co-Chair; Senator Max Wise; and Representative Nancy Tate.

Guests: Jamie Rosenberg, Executive Officer of ClassWallet; Jennifer Scutchfield, Assistant Secretary of State; David Dukes, Secretary of State IT Developer; Rodney Barnes, Secretary of State IT Infrastructure; Kathy Robinson, Executive Director, Office of Procurement Services.

LRC Staff: Jennifer Hays, Adam Johnson, Sarah Watts, and Heather Hamilton.

**Opening remarks**

At the beginning of the meeting, Representative Hodgson asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of September 11th. Afterward, he led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Senator Wise and second by Representative Tate, the minutes from the July meeting were approved without objection.

Innovations in Public Funding Programs

Jamie Rosenberg, Executive Officer of ClassWallet, began with sharing how his career has progressed from being a corporate attorney to creating one of the largest philanthropic platforms, Adopt a Classroom, which uses technology to streamline how donations reach teachers. He founded ClassWallet, with a similar purpose, to help public agencies streamline processes to impact program outcomes. The program utilizes digital wallets to ensure the money goes directly from the government to those the money is meant to assist. He stated ClassWallet is being used in 35 states, and in Kentucky, it has contracted with the Mason County School District. Mr. Rosenberg shared a few examples of how state agencies use their digital wallet. He pointed out that eight of the thirteen states that have school choice programs use ClassWallet.

Mr. Rosenburg went on to explain how public programs sit at an intersection of three stakeholders: policy holders, beneficiaries, and the public. He stated that the technology and processes that agencies use to ensure program integrity undermine program efficiency and program outcomes. He gave an example of how digital wallets are better than using debit or credit cards and a centralized accounting system reimbursement process. Digital wallet technology can help maintain program integrity and compliance at a fraction of the time and cost of other solutions.

Responding to questions from Representative Hodgson, Mr. Rosenberg stated that the agency decides what data is public or private. He then elaborated on how ClassWallet charges the state, stating that they charge a licensing fee based on size. They are then also paid by the service providers in per-transaction fees. He stated that starting in January, Mason County, Kentucky, will be using this technology to disperse money to classroom teachers so they can buy resources and supplies. He stated ClassWallet can be used at the executive or district level. He stated it typically takes six weeks to implement, but they have done implementations in less than 2 weeks.

Responding to a question from Representative Tate, Mr. Rosenberg clarified that ClassWallet does not accept donations. They provide the software to facilitate the disbursement of funds to the intended donation beneficiaries.

Responding to a question from Senator Wise, Mr. Rosenberg stated ClassWallet would be beneficial to the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) program to help individuals track KHEAA benefits.

Secretary of State's Office

Jennifer Scutchfield, Assistant Secretary of State, began with sharing some of the IT improvements the agency has made.

David Dukes, Secretary of State IT Developer, gave an overview of the Secretary of State's (SOS) public facing and internal applications. The public facing applications are web based and hosted on an SOS web server. Internal applications use a client server application configuration that is accessed on internal user work stations that utilize SQL databases. All applications are current non-legacy applications and are built and maintained inhouse by an IT staff of five.

Rodney Barnes, Secretary of State IT Infrastructure, gave an overview of the SOS's security infrastructure. They use both internal and cloud-based structures that are hosted through Amazon Web Services (AWS). All application platforms are protected through Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT) and AWS firewall servers. They also use Trend Micro to protect inbound and outbound connections. All SQL databases reside on their own IP subnets. Internally, the SOS is also secured through an AWS-COT transit gateway. They use the same policies and procedures as COT and are evaluated on a regular basis.

David Dukes continued discussing the public and internal applications at the SOS's office, starting with the public facing business applications. SOS FastTrack uses a series of web applications. Internally, the integrated development environment (IDE) corporate editor manages the database of all business entities that do business in Kentucky. There is no charge for searching business data but there are online filing charges per KRS statutes. The IDE Onestop interface provides a two-way interface to coordinate business filings between SOS and Onestop, which shares business entity information with the Department of Revenue and the Office of Unemployment Insurance. The SOS provides data extracts to Tyler Technologies for customer purchased subscriptions of public business data. Mr. Dukes went on to explain applications for the land office, elections, notaries, trademarks and service marks, and the Uniform Commercial Code. He then discussed front office and Executive Journal applications.

In response to a question from Representative Hodgson, Mrs. Scutchfield stated that transaction fees were about $30,000 for last month. Tyler Technology is paid with the business filing fees that go into the SOS's office fund and the general fund.

Responding to a question from Senator Williams, Mrs. Scutchfield stated that they procured their own AWS cloud. Mr. Barnes added that they use the infrastructure of the AWS and COT partnership to procure their own independent connectivity to an AWS .gov cloud.

Discussion Among Members

Representative Hodgson began the discussion of the draft form. Senator Williams commented that the form should include if the project was procured in Kentucky or if a national procurement was used. Representative Tate commented that the form should include a section on business continuity if the project were not funded, including the impact to the organization and the impact to the user.

Senator Williams commented about NextGen 911, the use of legacy routers, and whether they conform to NEMA standards or not.

Correspondence Received

Representative Hodgens called attention to the memo from Kathy Robinson.

**Next Meeting – October 9, 2024 at 10 AM chaired by Senator Williams.**

**Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02.