

CARES ACT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
ZOOM Meeting  
May 18, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Chair, Elizabeth Smith, Secretary of the Department of Inspector General  
Vice Chair, Dr. Greg Bledsoe, Surgeon General (Department of Health Designee)  
Larry Walther, Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration  
Mike Preston, Secretary of the Department of Commerce  
Cindy Gillespie, Secretary of the Department of Human Services  
Amy Fecher, Secretary of the Department of Transformation & Shared Services  
Jami Cook, Secretary of the Department of Public Safety  
Johnny Key, Secretary of the Department of Education  
Bill Gossage, Governor's Office Representative  
Senator Missy Irvin  
Senator Will Bond  
Senator David Wallace  
Senator Joyce Elliott  
Representative Michelle Gray  
Representative Fred Allen  
Representative Lane Jean

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES**

Jonathan Askins, Director of the Department of Informational Systems  
Dr. José Romero, Secretary of the Department of Health

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome & Opening Remarks: Secretary Elizabeth Smith  
Approval of Minutes from March 16, 2021
- 2) DFA report – Secretary Larry Walther  
Current Funding Status (CARES Act Steering Committee fund balance sheet attached)
- 3) Transformation and Shared Services – Secretary Fecher  
Update: Cyber Security / Data Center Optimization Project - ready to proceed
- 4) Reports regarding ongoing project:
  - a) Department of Commerce – Secretary Mike Preston
    - i) Update regarding the \$2,200,000 for the Division of Workforce Services (DWS) was granted allow for the National Guard to assist with processing applications and documentation. National Guard was replaced with a contractor.

- 5) Ongoing projects with funding to be expended by June 30, 2021, will be reviewed by the CARES Act Steering Committee in June, at which time a determination regarding necessary extensions will be made. Any funds to be returned will be received at that time, which will allow for consideration of additional funding requests.
- 6) Planning future meeting – mid /late June
- 7) Adjourn

### **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

Secretary Elizabeth Smith called the meeting to order and recognized the addition of Senator Joyce Elliott to the committee. Secretary Smith thanked the steering committee for their work and flexibility on taking the month of April off, noting the committee will meet again in June. Secretary Smith noted the notes from March 16 meeting should have been circulated previous to the start of this meeting.

Representative Lane Jean motioned to approve the minutes; Secretary Amy Fecher provided a second; Secretary Smith called for a vote; the minutes were passed.

### **DFA Report – Secretary Larry Walther**

Secretary Smith noted DFA has provided the CARES Act Steering Committee fund balance sheet that should have been circulated previous to the meeting.

Secretary Larry Walther noted the committee is looking at the end of \$1.25 billion the committee started with in 2020. The secretary noted the agencies have spent \$1.178836986.33 with \$35 million left to spend of their distributed money, totaling \$1.214524941 billion allocated for CARES Act expenditures.

Secretary Walther noted the remaining balance before interest is \$35,487,000, and the committee has earned \$565 million in interest for an adjusted value of \$36,052,294. This amount is adequate to finance the requests on the agenda for cybersecurity. If that request was fulfilled in full, the remaining balance would be \$2,552,294.71.

### **Transformation and Shared Services – Secretary Amy Fecher**

Secretary Smith moved the meeting along to the Department of Transformation and Shared Services (TSS) ratification request the committee originally approved in November 2020, noting that she distributed those notes to the steering committee for this meeting as a reminder. Secretary Smith noted the steering committee voted to approve the \$33.5 million request for cyber security and data optimization on November 17, 2020 contingent on funds becoming available and the deadline to expend the funds being extended past the December 30 deadline. Secretary Smith noted both contingencies have occurred.

Secretary Amy Fecher noted Jonathan Askins, the new director of the department of information systems, is joining the meeting today. Secretary Fecher clarified TSS is continuing to ask for the same amount of funds.

Representative Lane Jean asked for a clarification on the timeline of getting the cyber security installed. Secretary Fecher clarified with Secretary Walther that the funds were extended until the end of this year and noted to Representative Jean the requested funds will be expended through the end of 2021.

Senator Missy Irvin clarified with Secretary Smith if any action needed to be done on this agenda item, as it had been previously passed in November 2020. Secretary Smith noted this served as an update to the committee. Senator Irvin requested a review of this project at a later date, as well as other expenditures.

### **Reports Regarding Ongoing Projects**

Secretary Smith noted Dr. José Romero with the Department of Health was on the line.

Secretary Smith noted to the committee that she approved the updated contract with the National Guard and Department of Workforce Services (DWS) without discussing, as there would be no dollar change and was in every side's best interest to do so. Updates would include a three-month timeline – one of which the National Guard will support the DWS; the remaining two will be staffed by an outside source. Secretary Mike Preston noted this will assist on two fronts: Maximus on the call center and UI modernization.

### **CLOSING DISCUSSION**

Secretary Smith noted that the steering committee will plan to have a meeting in June to review the projects that haven't spent funding, noting she is anticipated some projects to begin returning money. Secretary Smith also pointed out committee member Secretary Walther is heading up the American Rescue Plan Steering Committee, which will remain separate from the CARES Act entirely.

**The meeting was adjourned.**