



**PROCUREMENT IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL (PIC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 9, 2026**



Start Time: 1:00pm | End Time: 1:51pm | Location: Virtual

Members Present:

<b>Chair, CPO, Designee</b>	Linda Dangerfield, Amit Khardori	<b>Senate Member Representative</b>	Ken Kerr
<b>State Treasurer, Designee, Deputy Treasurer</b>	Cissy Blasi	<b>House of Delegates Member</b>	
<b>Chancellor USM, Designee</b>	Tom Hickey	<b>Comptroller or Designee</b>	Tom Brennan
<b>Sec. DoIT, Designee</b>	Melissa Leaman	<b>Attorney General or Designee</b>	Zenita Wickham Hurley
<b>Sec. MDOT, Designee, CPO</b>	Valerie Radomsky	<b>Local Govt Member</b>	Ash Shetty
<b>BPW Procurement Advisor</b>	Gabe Gnall	<b>Social Services</b>	Barbara Ashe
<b>Special Sec. OSBA, Designee</b>	Nichelle Johnson	<b>Social Services</b>	
<b>Sec. of Juvenile Serv., Designee, Procurement Director</b>	Ronald Colbert	<b>Veteran Owned Business</b>	
<b>Sec. Human Serv., Designee, Procurement Director</b>	Cynthia Washington	<b>General Public (w/State Proc. Exp.)</b>	Robert Dashiell
<b>Sec. of Health, Designee, Procurement Director</b>	Calvin Johnson	<b>Minority Owned Business</b>	
<b>Superintendent of Schools, Designee</b>	Jenna Meinl	<b>Minority Owned Business</b>	

**Guests/Attendees:**

**Maryland Government Agencies**

Damon Brown, Keasha Brown, Gabriel Gnall, Chris Hautala, Calvin Johnson, Nichelle Johnson, Talley Kovacs, Erik Lyon, Lauri McGuire, Scott Moore, Mark Newgent, Krystal Quinlan, Joy Thomas, Tracie Watkins-Rhodes

**Other**

Lisa Ellis, Harris Floyd, Juanita Gray

**DGS Office of State Procurement (OSP) Staff Present:**

Stella Alexander-Sergeeff, Lyudmila Bond, Shae Cronin, Natalie Grasso, Johnny Harris, Chantal Kai-Lewis, Yasin Mohammed, Ylan Nguyen, Joan Plater, Jamie Tomaszewski, Megan Ulrich, Corbett Webb

**PIC Statutory Responsibilities (SFP 12-105) -- 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 and Introductions
2	Updates from Previous Meeting
3	Technology Workgroup Update
4	Socioeconomic Program Workgroup Update
5	Contract Management Workgroup Update
6	Open Discussion and Future Priorities
7	Closing Remarks

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Linda Dangerfield welcomed attendees and thanked members for their continued support of the Governor's Executive Order on Procurement Modernization. She reported that implementation of the Executive Order is approximately 50% complete and remains on track to reach approximately 80% completion by the end of calendar year 2026.

Amit Khardori thanked PIC members for their continued participation and acknowledged former Chief Procurement Officer Wallace Sermons for his leadership and contributions to procurement modernization efforts.

### **Updates from Previous Meeting**

Amit reviewed recent PIC developments, including continued progress on Executive Order implementation, the launch of the Technology Workgroup, ongoing efforts by the Socioeconomic Program Workgroup, and future plans to engage the PIC on risk management and other procurement policy initiatives.

### **Technology Workgroup – Presented by Corbett Webb, OSP**

Corbett Webb encouraged members to complete the PIC Expression of Interest Form and emphasized the need for additional participation in the Technology Workgroup.

Corbett reported on several ongoing initiatives, including:

- OSP participation in the American Bar Association's Model Procurement Code Revision Project, a

national effort to modernize public procurement laws and practices, particularly in the area of technology procurement.

- Implementation planning for Maryland's Competitive Proof of Concept procurement method following recent legislative amendments designed to improve its effectiveness.
- Ongoing review and modernization of procurement templates and solicitation provisions related to information technology, artificial intelligence, privacy, and data protection.
- Recent updates to the State's Data Use Agreement to reflect current legal requirements and best practices for the handling of personal information.

Melissa Leaman noted that the upcoming statewide IT Council meeting attended by agency CIOs may provide an opportunity to recruit additional Technology Workgroup participants and coordinate related statewide initiatives.

Amit highlighted the importance of coordination with DoIT and noted that DGS and DoIT are collaborating on broader efforts related to artificial intelligence procurement and governance.

### **Socioeconomic Program Workgroup – Presented by Chantal Kai-Lewis, OSP**

Chantal Kai-Lewis provided updates on several initiatives supporting implementation of the Procurement Reform Act and the Governor's Executive Order.

Current initiatives include:

- **Workforce Diversity Reporting:** The Workgroup is developing a standardized workforce diversity reporting template for procurements valued at \$500,000 or more. The initiative seeks to support consistent data collection while avoiding unnecessary barriers to participation and ensuring compliance with applicable constitutional and legal requirements. Completion is targeted for December 2026.
- **MBE and VSBE Form Modernization:** The Workgroup continues to refine streamlined MBE and VSBE forms developed with stakeholder input. The revised forms are intended to simplify compliance requirements, reduce vendor errors, and support future digitization efforts. Final drafts remain under review by DoSEM, which committed to completing in a timeframe of weeks.
- **Compliance Enforcement:** The Workgroup reported progress implementing enhanced compliance mechanisms, including updated liquidated damages provisions and approved subcontracting good-faith effort attestation language incorporated into procurement documents.
- **Bond Threshold Review:** In accordance with Executive Order 01.01.2024.28, The Office of Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs (OSBA) conducted a survey from vendors as it pertains to Increasing Competition in the Maryland Procurement Marketplace. Pursuant to COMAR 21.07.01.27, OSBA assisted in determining the feasibility of increasing the threshold for bond requirements on procurement contracts for construction from \$100,000 to \$400,000. OSBA conducted a survey; 150 people responded. DGS & OSBA will meet soon to discuss.

### **Discussion**

Tom Hickey asked about the status of the revised MBE forms, noting that the Workgroup completed much of its work more than a year ago. Representatives from DoSEM and OSP explained that implementation has required extensive coordination among agencies, alignment with Procurement Reform Act requirements, COMAR revisions, and consideration of several major procurements already underway when the revisions were completed.

Members noted that the revised forms are expected to be significantly more user-friendly and should

reduce the likelihood of vendors being disqualified for technical errors.

DoSEM committed to completing its review of the final draft MBE forms soon, on a timeframe of weeks.

### **Contract Management Workgroup – Presented by Natalie Grasso, OSP**

Natalie Grasso reported on several ongoing initiatives focused on strengthening statewide contract management practices.

- **Statewide Contract Management Survey**

The Workgroup recently completed a survey of State agencies to identify key contract management challenges. The three most frequently cited issues were:

- Insufficient training
- Lack of monitoring tools
- Lack of clear procedures and processes

The Workgroup is currently developing recommendations and resources to address these issues.

- **Contract Monitoring Tracker Training**

A formal training course for the Contract Monitoring Tracker (CMT) has been developed. Curriculum design and recording are complete, and OSP is preparing to pilot the training with a select group of users before broader deployment.

- **Contract Modification Process Improvement**

The Workgroup has completed a review of existing contract modification processes and is developing a standardized contract modification form and associated procedures. The proposed approach is intended to reduce administrative burden, improve consistency, and minimize delays.

Amit emphasized the importance of contract management as a core procurement function and thanked the Workgroup for its efforts.

### **Open Discussion and Future Priorities**

Amit invited members to provide recommendations regarding future PIC priorities and areas of focus.

- **Procurement Legislation Review**

Tom Hickey recommended establishing a recurring legislative review effort to monitor procurement-related legislation during General Assembly sessions. He noted that reviewing legislation and advising policymakers are among the PIC's statutory responsibilities.

Linda Dangerfield indicated that OSP has been discussing this concept and anticipates further development before the next PIC meeting.

Robert Dashiell expressed interest in participating in future legislative review activities and highlighted recent procurement legislation enacted during the 2026 legislative session.

Delegate Ken Kerr encouraged members to begin reviewing issues likely to return during the next

legislative session, including retainage and prompt payment legislation.

- **Vendor Communication and Outreach**

Harris Floyd emphasized the continuing need for improved communication with Maryland's vendor community. He noted that many vendors remain unaware of available procurement resources, training opportunities, and procedural requirements.

Examples discussed included vendor misunderstandings regarding invoice corrections and prompt payment timelines. Harris encouraged PIC leadership to revisit previous vendor outreach efforts and integrate communication improvements into future workgroup activities.

Amit agreed that vendor engagement remains an important priority and encouraged follow-up discussions on prior outreach initiatives.

### **Adjournment**

Linda Dangerfield thanked members for their continued participation and collaboration. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:51 PM.

The next quarterly PIC meeting is anticipated for September 8, 2026.

#### **NOTE:**

Please refer to the [PowerPoint presentation](#) and supporting materials for additional detail regarding topics discussed during the meeting. The [PIC agenda](#) provides a comprehensive outline to ensure all discussion points are addressed.