

MINUTES

DATA SHARING & DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING TASK FORCE

Thursday, December 19, 2019

9:30 a.m.

Room 272, State Capitol

Little Rock, AR

Committee Members Present: Senators Jane English, Co-Chair; Lance Eads, and Greg Leding; **Representatives** Stephen Meeks, Co-Chair; Karilyn Brown, Austin McCollum, and David Whitaker

Other Legislators Present: Representatives Fred Allen, David Fielding, Jack Ladyman, Brandt Smith, and Danny Watson

Representative Meeks called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the November 6, 2019, Meeting Minutes [EXHIBIT C]

Representative Whitaker made a motion to approve the Minutes, with a second by Senator Eads, and the motion carried.

Presentation of Data Transparency

Mr. Roger Norman, Director, and Mr. David Coles, Information Systems Supervisor, Legislative Audit (Audit), provided an update on operations and recommendations for the data warehouse. Mr. Norman said that Audit has the expertise to provide input on the accuracy of each agency database and noted that data is constantly changing with paper content now being conducted digitally. The data hub will be a continuing dynamic and will add additional transparency for the citizens of Arkansas. Mr. Norman noted the General Assembly needs quality, reliable, and transparent data to make good policy decisions and that the data hub will provide that.

Mr. Norman stated that Audit issued an Enterprise Database Report in 2015 which expressed the importance of the database hub project. He suggested the legislature, legislative agencies, Audit, Bureau of Legislative Research, and the judicial branch all be involved in the development of the hub.

Mr. Cole stated that data analytics make the workload more efficient allowing auditors to focus on high-risk transactions. With the audit profession growing, the standards are changing to be more data-centric. Audit uses data analytics for many special projects and is very familiar with the endeavors it takes to collect data sets from multiple agencies. Data privacy is of the utmost importance and auditors from other states have advised on the benefits of a data warehouse.

Don Berry, Chief Executive Officer, Arkansas Veterans Coalition, provided testimony on data application. Pertaining to the opioid epidemic, Mr. Berry provided examples of how federal, state, and private databases are offering a data-driven picture on combating the crisis. The data will provide decision-makers with a better understanding of how to address the situation moving forward.

Recommendations for the Data Task Force [EXHIBIT E]

All state agencies accept and work toward a data hub for the state of Arkansas. The Task Force understands that agencies can become protective about their data, but the agencies must realize that they are stewards of the data, not owners. The state directs the way data is used, not the agencies. **Senator Leding made a motion to adopt the recommendation, with a second by Representative Brown, and the motion carried.**

Arkansas Research Center – continue to assist agencies. **Senator Eads made a motion to adopt the recommendation, with a second by Representative Whitaker, and the motion carried.**

The Legislature should consider and pass legislation requiring agencies to negotiate and enter into data-sharing agreements with the Department of Information Services by a certain date. **Senator Leding made a motion to adopt the recommendation, with a second by Representative Brown, and the motion carried.**

The Arkansas Legislature should look at increasing the reporting requirements of cybersecurity breaches, and implementing a policy to handle the breaches. **Representative Brown made a motion to adopt the recommendation, with a second by Representative McCullough, and the motion carried.**

The Arkansas Legislature should create a Technology Committee for the Senate. **Representative Whitaker made a motion to adopt the recommendation, with a second by Representative Meeks, and the motion carried.**

The Arkansas Legislature should create a Division of Data Analytics within the Department of Information Services, which will be funded through general revenue. **Senator Eads made a motion to adopt the recommendation, with a second by Representative Brown, and the motion carried.**

Both the Executive and Legislative Branches work toward creating a cybersecurity policy. **Representative Whitaker made a motion to adopt the recommendation, with a second by Senator Eads, and the motion carried.**

The Arkansas Legislative Council should create a Data-Sharing and Data-Driven Decision-Making Subcommittee. **Senator Eads made a motion to adopt the recommendation, with a second by Representative Brown, and the motion carried.**

Senator Eads made a motion to allow Senator English and Representative Meeks to approve the final version of the report, with a second by Representative Brown, and the motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.