

## OCSEA IT Committee

April 26, 2007

Present: Warren Brown, ODJFS  
Kenny Keirns, DAS/OIT  
Ed Nagel, ODJFS  
Roger Hinton, DYS  
Jeff Little, DYS  
Cathy Stewart, DAS  
Tim McAllister, BWC  
John Anthony, Tax  
Carmalina Simpson, BWC  
Jim Knight, DAS – Management  
David Simpson – OCB  
Steve Edmonson – OIT Director  
Bruce Wyngaard, OCSEA  
Sharon Ralph, OCSEA

### **1. Steve Edmonson – Director of the Office of Information Technology (OIT)**

Steve Edmonson provided an overview of a power point presentation about the administrative history of OIT and what motivates the proposal to move OIT to the Office of Budget and Management. The power point presentation can be viewed on the OCSEA website.

#### General Highlights:

- Edmonson and OBM Director Pari Sabety testified last week regarding the need to better manage IT resources and better leverage the \$800 million state IT investment. He noted:
  - Increase IT capacity as a vehicle that the state uses to serve Ohioans and businesses.
  - Multiple agencies do not work together.
  - Lack of information for decision making.
  - Better manage IT spending and planning including better strategic investments and long term planning.
  - Proven model in other states – also provides greater control of technology costs.
- **Other OIT Initiatives Important to Managing IT**
  - Support OAKS organization – create a “steady state”.

- Better use Ohio broadband investments.
- Provide centralized standards and solutions and “grow” IT capacity.
- Improve communications to customer agencies, legislature and use change management.

## **2. General Discussion with the Committee**

- Edmonson discussed how consolidation among IT vendors affects product development and applications – these developments have an impact on what is offered and related supports the state needs.
- Union shared several OAKS related stories including how involvement with more direct line IT employees would have identified many problems overlooked in the design work done by the contractors.
- We discussed hidden costs of using contractors and redo work we are assigned. Edmonson has work history that includes working for a vendor and he confirmed practices that increase cost beyond what they should be.
- We shared concerns about:
  - Lack of training or training goals that hurt IT employee effectiveness and value.
  - Lack of involvement of IT employees – a common problem in many agencies.
  - Misuse of agency IT dollars – where training dollars are diverted to hardware expenditures.
  - Union strategy to begin assessment of IT employees that is interrupted by the State’s wish to reduce workforce development dollars negotiated in the collective bargaining agreement.
  - The implications of not being aggressive about knowledge transfer and how it further impacts on human resource investments and prolongs expensive IT vendor’s contracts.
  - How classifications and skill sets need to be better identified. The need for project management skills.
  - The need to have a broader view of IT in state government – agency perspective alone makes it difficult to do better with training investments and deploying talent.

Steve Edmonson expressed an appreciation for having a dialogue with the Committee and expressed an interest in meeting with the Committee on a future date.

## **3. Next Meeting**

Next Meeting: May 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the OCSEA Polaris Office.