

**Information Technology Committee
January 11, 2012
Testimony provided by Lisa Feldner**

Comments regarding the Executive Order 2011-20 and the proposed bill draft.

Success stories:

1. The executive order has added more openness, and a more transparent exchange of information between agencies. This has resulted in better information sharing and collaborative decision-making.
2. It has ensured there is experienced representation from legal, procurement, technology, and project management assigned to each project. These additional resources have brought diverse, statewide IT project-specific experience resulting in better negotiating, better checks and balances, and consistency in how decisions are made.
3. Application of the executive order has resulted in better quality RFPs and contracts for the state. Contracts with the proper protections in place allow the executive steering committee to manage the project more effectively.
4. The process has allowed the agency to retain a positive, long-term working relationship with contracted vendors while ensuring that contracts continue to be managed in the best interest of the state.
5. The order recognizes the importance of project management and has empowered project managers to fully utilize project management standards and practices resulting in more consistent initiating, planning and executing of projects. It requires that project managers are appropriately trained and experienced to manage large-scale projects.

Lessons Learned:

1. Initially, the process was confusing but we have worked through it to make the meetings run as efficiently as possible. We have learned that executive steering committee meetings are more effective if they are held more frequently but for shorter amounts of time during critical project points.
2. Executive steering committee meetings must be noticed as open meetings and conducted under Roberts Rules of Order. We learned that many of our employees were not familiar with either process so we had to provide training.
3. The order applies to projects over \$1 million. We are experiencing increased use of large project oversight time and procurement personnel time. As a way to accommodate the hours, we are suggesting the change in definition of a large project from \$250,000 to \$500,000. In the last two biennia, very few projects were in the range below \$500,000 and they have been very successful. Projects below \$500,000 would still require project management and reporting but not oversight.