

MINUTES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

November 21, 2024
Room 582-N—Statehouse

Committee Members Present

Senator Mike Petersen, Chairperson
Representative Kyle Hoffman, Vice-chairperson
Senator Rick Kloos
Senator Caryn Tyson
Representative Pam Curtis
Representative Kirk Haskins
Representative Carl Turner

Members Absent

Senator Tom Holland – Excused

Staff Present

James Fisher, Kansas Legislative Research Department (KLRD)
Matthew Willis, KLRD
Natalie Scott, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Tom Day, Acting Chief Information Technology Officer, Legislative Branch
Gary Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees

Jeff Maxon, Executive Chief Information Technology Officer, Office of Information
Technology Services
Alex Wong, Judicial Chief Information Technology Officer, Office of Judicial
Administration
Matthew Willis, Senior Research Analyst, KLRD
Jason Dickson, Chief Information Officer, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Bob Doane, Chief Information Officer, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Kevin Mapes, Chief Information Officer, Kansas Bureau of Investigation
Tom Pagano, Chief Information Officer, Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services,
and Department of Children and Families
Andy Sandberg, Chief Information Officer, Kansas Department of Revenue
Scott Schultz, Executive Director, Kansas Sentencing Commission
Kara Lowe, President and Chief Executive Officer, Kansas City Technology Council

Thursday, November 21
All-day Session

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Vice-Chair Hoffman.

Executive Branch IT Update

Jeff Maxon, Executive Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO), reviewed the Executive Branch Information Technology (IT) agency project reports, presented the Three-year Information Technology Plans, and provided an update on efforts related to House Sub. for SB 291, data center as a service contract, and the executive branch Generative AI policy update ([Attachment 1](#)). Regarding the Kansas Information Technology Office (KITO) quarterly reports for July-September 2024, he reviewed the Active, Planned, Approved, Completed, and On-Hold projects and introduced appropriate agency officers to explain project details.

Bob Doane, Chief Information Officer (CIO), Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), commented on the EpiTrax Genomics Project, a disease genomic analysis tool. The \$1.3-million project is federally funded and the information would be integrated with the state disease surveillance system. Members expressed concern regarding what patient information might be exposed by the system. John Anderson, Director, Genomic and Wastewater Epidemiology Programs, KDHE, responded to member questions. He said no individual identity is collected by the system; however, upon further questions, he replied that data that comes from hospital records identifies individuals who have signed a disclosure agreement. Mr. Anderson said that the agency collects only what is required by statute in order to create a database for tracking pathogens.

Approval of Minutes

By motion of Representative Haskins, second by Representative Turner, and unanimous vote of members, the JCIT minutes for October 30, 2024, were approved.

Executive Branch IT Project Update Continued

Tom Pagano, CIO for both the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) and the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF), commented on the DCF National Youth in Transition Database that tracks youth aging out of the state's foster-care system and reports the information to the federal government. He explained that the reporting is required by the federal government.

Kevin Mapes, CIO, Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI), presented on the Sexual Assault Kit Tracking system, noting that the current system previously had not met the 30-day statutory reporting requirement, a lag time partially caused by reliance on paper processes. The new system will more efficient and provide accountability for local entities who handle the kits. Responding to a question, he said the backlog of kits has been cleared.

Mr. Maxon referenced projects on Active status and introduced projects on Alert status. Josh White, CIO, Kansas Department of Administration, reported that the Capitol Complex Security - Infrastructure Project, which includes replacing key card access points and cameras, will be completed by December 31, 2024. Responding to questions, he replied that the delays were partly caused by supply-chain issues, partly from manual integration issues, and partly due to Capitol blackout dates. All upgrades were covered by federal funding.

Mr. Pagano explained that the DCF Child Support Services Replatforming has been delayed due to a federal mandate that required further data conversion, as well as one of the sub-contractor having been purchased by IBM; bringing the new vendor into the system has added to the timeline. Following the transition, the project will be recast. Responding to a question, he replied that the cost overrun will be funded 60/40 federal/state.

Mr. Pagano reviewed the KDADS Hospital Electronic Health Records & Substance Use Disorder Implementation. He explained that the project will modernize the state's Electronic Health Records and the Substance Abuse Disorder into a cloud-based system. Delays were caused by the need to add unique network modules for each hospital, a process that required further customization. Responding to questions, he replied that after further analysis, the project will be recast. New equipment licensing fees and new modules have added to the projected cost.

Mr. Doane returned to review the KDHE Early Childhood Data Integration and System Enhancements Project, which replaces the Child Care Licensing and Regulation Information System. He said the project will be within time parameters and under budget, but the process of creating the prototypes has taken longer than anticipated. Responding to a question, he replied that the \$16,000 in KITO fees will be met with agency funds.

Via Webex, Scott Schultz, Executive Director, Kansas Sentencing Commission, outlined the agency's Electronic Journal Entry System: He stated the agency has been working with a vendor who is developing a cloud-based journal-entry system for storage of statewide felony sentencing and probation revocation data that can be integrated into the Judicial eFile system. He reported that feedback from the four pilot projects required 15 unanticipated changes to the project costs, but the system is in the process of going live. Responding to a question, he replied that agency funds covered the additional costs.

Jason Dickson, CIO, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, provided an update on the KDWP SmartCop Management System, which will replace the current system by streamlining records and reporting processes and noted it will bring the system into compliance with federal reporting standards. He stated infrastructure network changes were needed and staff limitations created scheduling issues, delaying the project. Answering a question, Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor of Statutes, reported that the statute allowing seniors a lifetime license was sunset in 2020.

Mr. Maxon noted one Active project that has been recast: the OITS (Office of Information Technology Services) Enterprise Licensing Platform, a project to offer an occupational licensing platform to multiple state agencies. He explained that the addition of six agencies to the platform will require the project to be recast.

Andy Sandberg, CIO, Kansas Department of Revenue, commented on the agency's Alcoholic Beverage Control Division system for registration and control of retailers and distributors; he reported that the modernization/upgrade of the system will add functionality to the system, but that the data conversion required more time than was anticipated.

Mr. Maxon referenced the three-year IT plans for each branch of government: the Executive ([Attachment 2](#)), the Judicial ([Attachment 3](#)), and the Legislative ([Attachment 4](#)). He noted the Executive Branch IT success stories of 2023 and 2024, which included a unified licensing verification portal in accordance with 2023 SB 66 and migration of 26 websites to a new vendor. He identified the goals and objectives of OITS and the strategic actions that will make the IT Enterprise management more effective.

Mr. Maxon touched on highlights that show OITS effectiveness: collaboration with Judicial and Legislative CIOs, website modernization, disaster recovery solutions, and staff development. Responding to questions, he replied that OITS manages almost 50 cabinet and non-cabinet agencies, is completing a state AI policy 2.0 addressing Generative Artificial Intelligence usage, and is responding to 2024 House Sub. for SB 291 by integrating and consolidating ITEC (Information Technology Executive Council) policies and processes under the framework recommended by NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology).

Mr. Maxon reported that the Data Center as a Service project is currently in the procurement process. The service will provide data services not only to executive-branch agencies, but also statewide to other governmental subdivisions. He said the primary data center will be located in Kansas with a secondary site in Minnesota. Agencies will be isolated into security zones. Regarding cybersecurity, Mr. Maxon identified staffing progress and noted the value of the state's ability to handle a complex security environment. Responding to a query, he replied that a third-party vendor will assess the services to identify gaps in coverage.

Judicial Branch IT Update

Alex Wong, Chief Information Technology Officer, Office of Judicial Administration, introduced himself as the new CITO of the Judicial Branch and briefly outlined his orientation to the new job ([Attachment 5](#)). He referenced the Judicial Three-Year IT Plan and commented on current responses to 2024 House Substitute for SB 291, among which are migration to a .gov domain, tracking cybersecurity expenses, implementing cybersecurity training, and reviewing the Chief Information Security Officer contract. Responding to questions, he replied that any district court is welcome to be included in the court's statewide central data management system. He assured members that the previous web domain will be retained and redirected for the foreseeable future.

Lunch

Members recessed for lunch from 11:17 a.m. to 12:55 p.m.

Data Retention Practices Presentation

Matthew Willis, Senior Research Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department, reviewed the state statutes regarding the retention of personally identifiable information (PII) ([Attachment 6](#)). He cited an example of statutes that require retention of PII, and he noted that some state agencies and the State Records Board have non-statutory policies addressing PII. Additionally an ITEC policy states that entities “must employ mechanism(s) to ensure the confidentiality, availability, and integrity of Restricted-Use Information,” and it requires appropriate removal of such data. Mr. Willis referenced the National Institutes of Standards and Technology standards that offer general principles for handling PII and noted the presence of information from other states on this issue. He commented that Kansas school districts individually determine procedures for PII. Responding to questions, he replied that the State Records Board meets quarterly and primarily deals with specific agency retention schedules and guidelines.

KC Tech Specs

The chairperson recognized Kara Lowe, President and Chief Executive Officer, Kansas City Technology Council (KCTC). Ms. Lowe stated workforce is the central component of all IT initiatives, explained that her agency is an independent, not-for-profit membership organization working on both sides of the state line with industry leaders to strengthen and promote Kansas City’s tech industry through policy advocacy and tech talent development ([Attachment 7](#)) and ([Attachment 8](#)). She said KCTC bridges federal, Kansas, Missouri, and municipal governments to grow, attract, and retain diverse tech talent. Noting that tech’s share of the Kansas City labor market is 18% greater than the national average as well as the growing impact of Artificial Intelligence and cybersecurity. She traced the economic impact of technology and the concomitant employment/wage landscape in both Missouri and Kansas in relation to other key cities and national averages. Responding to member comments about the present talent pipeline, she replied that her agency works with the Kansas Department of Commerce to increase access to resources and enables various entities to share resources. She also noted her work with disadvantaged kids to draw them into the tech pipeline.

Discussion and Recommendations

Chairman Hoffman invited members to make recommendations to the 2025 legislature. The following recommendations were adopted by the committee:

- Review data retention laws, regulations, and best practices;
- Review policies pertaining to artificial intelligence, and its use cases;
- Review provisions of law created or amended by 2024 House Sub. for SB 291 prior to such provisions repeal on July 1, 2026, and seek additional comments and feedback; and
- Commended state IT staff for the work they have done to modernize and secure the state IT infrastructure and equipment, and work towards developing a secure IT culture among state agencies.

The committee also requested the following Legislation:

- Legislation to make the Joint Committee on Information Technology one of the recipients of the State IT consolidation report from the Information Technology Executive Counsel, and the project cost estimates form Judicial Branch IT Services for county and district court employees.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m. No further meetings were scheduled.

Prepared by: Gary Deeter

Edited by: James Fisher and Matthew Willis

Approved by the Committee on:

January 23, 2025

(Date)