Diversity in Washington State Contracts, Procurement, Public Works and Transportation

Department of Enterprise Services

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What we are hearing from our customers and communities

• Barriers to doing business
• Difficult and inconsistent processes
• Current performance numbers
Current state – Key findings

• Data not standardized
• Too many systems; they don’t communicate
• Missing a full “dashboard” of measures to really understand
• Procurement and contracting activities are organized and structured differently in every agency
• No consistent, coordinated procurement planning processes in agencies
Current state (cont.)

- Not all agencies have a procurement presence on their website
- Not all agencies have a diversity program for procurement
- Procurement diversity training for staff is not a common practice
- Inclusion plans are not a standard practice and their use is limited
- No standard practice for outreach to certified firms as part of a procurement
Current state (cont.)

- The multiple Federal and state laws and rules add to agency confusion and inconsistent experiences for the small and diverse business community
- Many independent efforts but no central focus
- No common language
- No statewide community of practice
## Subcabinet Agency Members

- Dept. of Transportation, Lynn Peterson
- Dept. of Social and Health Services, Kevin Quigley
- Health Care Authority, Dorothy Teeter
- Dept. of Enterprise Services, Chris Liu
- Dept. of Corrections, Bernie Warner

- Dept. of Labor & Industries, Joel Sacks

- Dept. of Veteran Affairs, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos
- Office of Minority & Women’s Enterprises, Alexis Oliver
- Commission on African American Affairs, Ed Prince
- Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, Michael Itti
- Commission on Hispanic Affairs, Uriel Iniguez

- Attorney General’s Office, Laura Watson

- Governor’s Office representative(s)

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Represent more than 2/3 of state spending

Community of practice

Community transparency, reporting and communication

Single source legal counsel
Areas of Focus

1. Improve data collection and measurement
2. Clarify and improve legal and policy framework
3. Create a community of practice
   • Share and adopt procurement tools and processes that work
   • Foster a diversity and inclusion culture
   • Improve engagement and assistance (external and internal)
   • Improve procurement planning to enable better outreach
   • Training

This will not be a linear process – work in focus areas will be concurrent
Disparity Study

• Potential scope: State public works and goods & services procurement

• Exploring study design options

• Obtaining lessons learned from previous studies

• Will have a advisory group to assist with developing the procurement requirements

• Aiming for procurement to begin early in the new year.