
STATE OF MARYLAND
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

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10:09 a.m.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: So I guess those who may not have dental benefits or, you know, as well as students, are able to utilize this clinic?

MS. SIKORA: Yes, sir.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. All right. Okay. Now, have you evaluated the cost of running the clinic this way through the nonprofit versus what it would be if you did it through some other commercial operation or with State employees?

MS. SIKORA: It is frequently evaluated. I think the last time that we did a formal evaluation with the Board of Regents it was in 2014. But as part of our annual budget review process we review this, as a matter of fact just yesterday, with the President of UMB. So it is assessed. I think the mission to provide the highest quality care at the most affordable prices has allowed, having a nonprofit structure has allowed us to keep those costs down in a way that I think a for profit would not have the same motivation in terms of generating revenue.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. All right. Any other, any questions?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval if not.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Dean and Joe. Anyway, so do we have a second?

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Thank you, University System.

MR. EVANS: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Department of Transportation? There he is, Mr. Secretary. We don't hear you.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Please unmute your microphone, Mr. Secretary.

MR. SLATER: There we go. Good morning. Sorry about that.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: That's okay.

MR. SLATER: Good morning. Great to see everyone this morning. It was great to see Dr. Wilson from Morgan on. If you are not aware, they have a great Transportation Urban Institute, they have a civil engineering program, they have a National Transportation Institute. And they do an amazing Summer Transportation Institute for local kids. And they contribute a lot to our work force and we work very closely with them. So --

TREASURER KOPP: That's great.

MR. SLATER: -- premier programs in the region. So, good morning, Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. For the record, my name is Greg Slater. I'm the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation.

The Maryland Department of Transportation is presenting ten items for your consideration. Item 1-AE is being withdrawn, leaving nine for your consideration. And I am here as well as representatives to answer any questions you may have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: I don't have any questions. I like the fact that in 5-AE you went through the Small Business Reserve Program for engineering services and just appreciate that effort.

MR. SLATER: Absolutely.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Any questions on Transportation's Agenda?

TREASURER KOPP: Well, I had a question on number one, but you preempted it.

MR. SLATER: Absolutely. We're still very committed to that project. We're working with Southwest and how we issue the revenue bonds. And when that market comes back, we'll kind of work very closely with them. But we're still very committed to matching their pace when it comes to air service returning.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: When you do come back, and maybe before that, I had a question with regard to why you would need a construction management inspection service when you have construction

management at risk. So maybe there is some information you can give to me on that.

MR. SLATER: Absolutely. I can work with you on it.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Thank you. Okay. Any other questions on the Transportation Agenda?

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move approval if not.

TREASURER KOPP: Second but I would, I don't have a question, but I would point out, I think in 10-C, it's from the State Highway Administration. I have no concern about the contract. It looks good. But traditionally, and I'm not sure about legally that you had to bring that to the Board of Public Works and I very much appreciate your doing that.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes.

MR. SLATER: Yes. Yes, ma'am. When, you know, we traditionally bring facilities but not roadway projects. And so we always kind of go back and err on the side of caution when there are both involved so that we bring it all in one, just to be sure.

TREASURER KOPP: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Please feel free to bring all the road projects and you can tell MDTA that they can bring their bridge and tunnel projects as well. We'd love to have all of those. I won't get started on

that. I did get started, but I'm just being nice about it. All right. So do we have a second on the -- okay. We're all in favor. Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

MR. SLATER: Thank you. Be safe.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. You, too. Department of General Services? Oh, there's Nelson. Turn on your microphone.

MR. REICHART: Here we go. Am I okay now?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes. Good morning.

MR. REICHART: Good morning, Lieutenant Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller. For the record, I'm Nelson Reichart, Deputy Secretary of the Department of General Services. Today we are presenting 34 items, including one supplemental, for your consideration --

SECRETARY GONTRUM: Deputy Secretary Reichart? I hate to interrupt you. Is there a way you could adjust your microphone? We're getting some feedback.

MR. REICHART: Let's see.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Is your phone nearby? I don't know if that's --

MR. REICHART: No, the phone is off. Is that better?

TREASURER KOPP: No.

SECRETARY GONTRUM: No, sir.

MR. REICHART: Does that help any?

TREASURER KOPP: No.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: No, I think we may have to just get through this or --

MR. REICHART: -- I don't know --

TREASURER KOPP: -- Nelson --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: -- radio --

MR. REICHART: -- effective --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: -- radioactive. It does sound like a Geiger counter or something. Do they still have those things?

TREASURER KOPP: That is what it sounds like.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Yeah.

TREASURER KOPP: A radiation detector.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah, do they still have --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- a little bit of a glow --

(Laughter.)

MR. REICHART: I'm terribly sorry. I don't know what would be causing it to create --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: All right. Well, I guess we can just suffer through it.

MR. REICHART: Okay. We have representatives available to answer any questions if you have any at this time.

TREASURER KOPP: Well, Nelson, it was my understanding that you were going to give us an update about the emergency procurements now. Is that right? You and whomever else you needed to support you?

MR. REICHART: Well, the State's Chief Procurement Officer Robert Gleason is available to be brought in to answer any questions you have.

TREASURER KOPP: Well, I think everybody should hear what the process is for doing the emergency procurements, first of all. And then I know my understanding is that we're going to see the first ones at the next meeting. But what the process is and how we go about making sure that they are good procurements. I know both the Comptroller's Office warrants the expenditures when they come from the agency, and then the Treasurer's Office actually processes, gets them, the checks written or the wires sent. So we're all involved in this and I think it should just be made clear what the process, what your part of the process is.

MR. REICHART: Okay. I can, as I said, Robert Gleason is available to go through the process.

TREASURER KOPP: Somewhere without the Geiger counter.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Is Bob on?

MR. GLEASON: Nelson, can you hear me?

MR. REICHART: I can hear you.

MR. GLEASON: Good morning. This is Bob Gleason. Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller, this is Bob Gleason, for the record, Chief Procurement Officer. I'm here to address any questions you have with regard to the emergency procurement activities over the last four weeks. And certainly it's an experience that's worth telling. I think it would probably take more time than we have at the moment, or at least, in the detail that we would like to do that. But I can tell you it's most unusual circumstances. And let me pause for a minute and see if you have a specific question around process. Because there is an emergency process that we do follow.

TREASURER KOPP: I would like to know what the process is that you're using to be --

MR. GLEASON: Okay. So --

TREASURER KOPP: -- I mean, there are millions of dollars involved. Everyone should understand what the process is.

MR. GLEASON: Certainly. So based upon the emergency declaration, we commenced to work with the Department of Health and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency to understand what the requirements

were to meet the needs for health, life, and safety around the COVID event. There is an emergency procurement method, which we follow. And so the fact that the Maryland Emergency Management Agency is the lead agency in terms of understanding how to meet the exigencies of the emergency, all requirements go through the WebEOC, which is an incident management reporting system that is national, nationwide, under the FEMA program. So all requirements in terms of capacity building, beds, field medical sites, ICU modular trailers, equipment, all of that must go through the WebEOC. Once it goes through the WebEOC the --

TREASURER KOPP: What is the WebEOC?

MR. GLEASON: The WebEOC is a national emergency management incident reporting system. So anything that is required in any state or jurisdictional emergency must go through there for federal reporting requirements. And I will confess I'm not a WebEOC emergency management expert by any stretch. But we do operate what I would refer to as the EMS7, Emergency Management Services 7, which is logistics and acquisition. So --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: -- Bob, let me just, this is all managed by Maryland's Emergency Management Agency.

MR. GLEASON: Correct.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: So when it comes through MEMA and DGS is this Emergency Operations 7, has a seat at the table out of the MEMA Headquarters in Reisterstown.

MR. GLEASON: Yes, Governor. Once it comes to us, then we have to source and procure that requirement. If we have a contract in place, then we order off of the existing contract. To the extent that we don't have a contract in place, then we have to source a supplier or a service to provide a service. And I can tell you after the last month and a half, two months, it has been a struggle with many of the materials and it becomes a supply and demand issue.

So once we get the requirement to source and contract that, we do. We go through the emergency procurement process. And we develop a contract for purchase orders with the suppliers either that we have or that we must develop as a part of the emergency. And I can tell you over the past two months, we've had over 109 orders, contracts, and approximately \$314 million based on our report, the most recent report I have that was submitted on EMMA, eMaryland Marketplace Advantage, which covered the period March 23rd to April 26th.

Much of that has to do with standing up the field medical site in Baltimore at the Convention Center, a 250-bed medical site that's handled by both UMMS and the Hopkins system. We've also procured modular ICU units that are going at Fort Washington and Prince George's County Regional Hospitals. All of

this is predicated on the medical models that were going to be needed for the COVID emergency in terms of the capacity, either with the (indiscernible) 6,000 COVID positive patients, which might exceed the capacity of the hospital system. We were required to stand up a field medical site there at the Convention Center, Fort Washington, Prince George's County Regional. And we also have acquired some additional capacity in terms of tents. These are ten-person ICU critical COVID patient tents that are being used as supplementary sites at hospitals around the State. A certain number of tents were allocated to Department of Corrections and Public Safety for use at Hagerstown and Jessup.

So the process is to develop contracts to provide for those services and those materials, the equipment and supplies, to do all that. A lot of it has focused on healthcare, which necessitates a need for ventilators, in this case for patients that are under stress and require clinical care at that level. Of course, a lot of these things are not things that we normally buy. Typically we buy tires, tubes, vehicles, most of the stuff that you can run any jurisdiction. So a lot of these things are medical related, as well as personal protection equipment, PPE. PPE is sort of the general term around masks, call it the three Gs, gloves, gowns, and goggles. But particularly for the clinicians in what we call hot zones, and I've learned a lot of terminology over the last couple of months. But the gowns have to be impermeable going into what they call a hot zone. And so there's only a limited

amount of supply, and this is in a crisis that certainly we're all aware that it is international, global. And there's only so many masks, so many gloves, so many goggles that are available. So we look at local fabrication with local companies here.

So I could go long on this, so but let me just go back to your process question.

TREASURER KOPP: Yes.

MR. GLEASON: Most of the suppliers are vetted to make sure that they have a Dun & Bradstreet, that they are registered to do business in the State of Maryland. And in terms of supply and demand to the extent that they, there is not sufficient supply, then sometimes we have to use brokers and we have to go in private sector speak tier two, tier three type of sources. And I know that some of my other states, my peers, we're all struggling. I'm on a weekly call every Monday. And all 50 states, and all cities, towns, counties, first responders, all clamoring for the same goggles, gowns, and gloves. There's not enough capacity. And a new term I've learned is called burn rate. And to the extent that people have to use these, use them once unless they are washable, that consumes a lot. There's figures that are generally available through the emergency process that is reported everyday that talks about it doesn't matter how many millions of gloves or millions of gowns we buy, we burn them up. They have to consume them in all the hospital

environments within a matter of days or weeks. So, demand far exceeds supply. So it's been a struggle. We don't have enough. And we are working to do that.

I would also point out that once we get a supplier vetted through Commerce, then we use them through EMMA. We have an RFI, a request for information process, on EMMA. And again, they have to register, provide all the information, and all the due diligence there. And then we're able to work with them.

I'll stop there and pause because this could go very long. But see what other questions you have about process.

The other thing I would add real quick, we developed a process several weeks ago for a Maryland First type of initiative. So to the extent that you can't fill orders for PPE and other things through the standard sources, such as Grainger and many of the contractors we typically historically rely on, then we look to our local suppliers to try to fabricate and manufacture that sort of thing.

TREASURER KOPP: Okay. Could, I don't want to cut you short, but --

MR. GLEASON: No, please.

TREASURER KOPP: -- I appreciate it. Clearly, I think what would be best is if you don't mind if you talk to our staff --

MR. GLEASON: Mm-hmm.

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TREASURER KOPP: -- over the next two weeks and came back with a report or a description, you or Nelson or whomever, Governor, on what the process is that Maryland uses to decide what's needed, to select the vendors, and to expend the funds. I know we're going to have a number of items on the Agenda next time and I've been hoping that we could understand the process now so we didn't have to do that in two weeks. But I think it sounds like it would be better to give you all a chance to actually prepare a clear presentation of the information that we have to know before we approve of these items. That is, how you knew you needed them. You, meaning not only you, Bob, but the agencies of government who are presenting the items to us, actually, MDOT, Corrections, etcetera. And get back to us. I don't want to use up your valuable time.

MR. GLEASON: If I could just add one more thing very quickly, just for a second here. One of the struggles that we've had is the competition that we are in with many of our sister states. On the calls that I face -- I mentioned supply very little. Many of the other states that I've worked with have gone far upstream into the supply chain, going so far as to go to China and actually buy their way into the production chain, only to find a day later that their order was cancelled by the factory so that the other countries basically from the Indian subcontinent would buy six-months-worth of supply that was sorely needed here in the U.S. So there's a lot of things going on in the marketplace that I know that some

jurisdictions are paying 100 percent up front in sort of an expeditionary payment in order to guarantee an assurance that they, the supplies would be available for them. Our system is not geared for that type of payment or financial wherewithal. So in many cases, we've lost deals to some of my peers. I also know that when, we've learned a lot about Incoterms, things that typically procurement is not faced with in terms of international import/export. And I've had, some of my colleagues had their shipments paid for with cash out from under them at the ports where the goods have been disembarked. So there's a lot going on here and I would be very happy to speak with your staff. Thank you.

TREASURER KOPP: Great.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: If I could just add in, Lieutenant Governor and others, this is, I really appreciate the Treasurer bringing this subject up. And I'm fundamentally interested in how many contracts we've entered into, what has the State lost if any based on the concerns that Mr. Gleason just suggested because of the volatility of the marketplace. What have we paid out? What was the per unit, you know, price that we paid? Basically, how much money there is that has been spent understandably to get these supplies, and where we are as far as the dollars out, product in. Just the names of the companies, how the State got presented these contracts. I've had numerous calls from people that --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Everyone --

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: -- imagine, old acquaintances of mine who happen to have a new relationship with someone in China. Well, really? So that's kind of, if you could sort out what exactly you have paid, entered into, what monies you have paid out, what's at risk, who introduced you to these folks, how exactly the contracts are being vetted, and I assume they are being vetted very closely. I'm not suggesting anything to the contrary. But I think just the most amount of transparency we can get would be appreciated.

MR. GLEASON: Mr. Comptroller, thank you very much. And I will look forward to speaking with the staff. I will say that in being very transparent, I put my cell phone, my email, and all my other phones out on the website, and I think every supplier in the country has found me and I've become one of the --

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: -- that probably was not good, quite frankly.

MR. GLEASON: Well, I did it in other times. These are different times that we're operating under.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah. Yeah. And Mr. Comptroller, you are absolutely right. I mean, I've been contacted by elementary school friends, high school friends, people I've gone to school in college with. I received an email on my Maryland official email from some joker

in China that I've never heard of, didn't know who he was, and said, I live in China, I can help you with, blah, blah. So generally what we've been doing is MEMA and General Services have set up a website that they collect information from vendors and I just send that to my friends and anyone else, except for the guy in China, that send your information to them, send them your specs, and let them handle it. And --

MR. GLEASON: Governor, if I could say one more thing?

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: -- who can get a special deal, it seems like.

MR. GLEASON: Governor, if I could just say one more thing. I'd just like to say thanks to the procurement officers out there. They have been in the front lines for over 50 days, seven days a week, oftentimes ten-hour days. Every day is Monday for these procurement officers. And they have only been established as a unit in only the last six months, eight months, when it started. And I would say that a lot of the processes are new. They did not have the technology until recently to be able to operate. And in fact, the financial technology has been a bit of a burden in terms of being able to get the necessary processes in place. And I would like to thank the staff of the Comptroller and the Treasurer for all of the assistance that their staff has helped throughout this process as well, because I know they are doing a lot of extraordinary work, too. So I'll stop there. Thank you.

MR. REICHART: Thank you very much.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yeah, Bob, thank you for recognizing our procurement officials, who are doing a great job. I just was given an article that I guess it was in Yahoo News, where our own Danny Mays was interviewed there. And this was back in April, back on April 10th, and he talks about a number of the challenges that you just mentioned with regard to doing business with some of these international providers and the challenges that they are facing and the competition with other states. So --

MR. GLEASON: I think one of the things I've said to them is they have to be responsive, reasonable, and rational in every situation that they are in. And I think that they have stepped up to the plate and they have done enormous duty in the last 50-plus days. Thank you.

TREASURER KOPP: And I would hope that would all be documented as well, because --

MR. GLEASON: Well, yes, ma'am. And we've documented things. I think in some cases where it takes time to go through what we would consider routine processes, I find out that the next jurisdiction over has made the deal before we could get to it. So we've lost many deals that we were not able to make in a timely way. But yes, ma'am, we have documented all the processes that we could.

TREASURER KOPP: I don't know if it makes you feel any better, Bob, but I'm on a call with state treasurers twice a week.

MR. GLEASON: Yes, ma'am.

TREASURER KOPP: And they all have the same, they all have the same story and the same concerns. But it is important that we follow procedures that everyone understands and that these things are documented so that when we go back after the fact --

MR. GLEASON: Yes, ma'am.

TREASURER KOPP: -- great. Thank you. I look forward to --

MR. GLEASON: I'm aware that after 2001, 2003 was a banner year for auditors, lawyers, and many others. So I'm very cognizant that when this is done, I will be reviewed, scrutinized, and checked out.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes.

TREASURER KOPP: Well, the other thing is to have an understanding not just of what your role is or what DGS is, but how it fits in with the other agencies, Health or Corrections, who know what they need, and then finally what the role of the Board of Public Works is as well.

MR. GLEASON: Yes, ma'am. I agree.

TREASURER KOPP: Thanks.

MR. REICHART: Madam Treasurer, we will get together with your staff and make sure the processes and the procedures --

TREASURER KOPP: And the Comptroller's and the Governor's.

MR. REICHART: -- and the Comptroller's, yes, to go through the procedures for procurements, emergency procurements.

TREASURER KOPP: Yes.

MR. REICHART: If I may, because of whatever was involved in the system here, I didn't finish. We are withdrawing Items 14-S, 12-S-MOD, 33-IT-MOD, and 34-S. But we'll be happy to answer any questions that you have.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: I want to ask about a modification on 19-IT-MOD. It appears that this the various increases in this contract have tripled during the, through the length of the contract. And there's reference to a task order RFP being developed for a new project management office. I just, I'm a little concerned, one, that we reached this point that we're tripling the cost of this project. But also then, you know, I have some real concerns about the timing associated with this task order RFP. Could someone talk about this item?

MR. REICHART: Certainly. Dana Dembrow, the Director of Procurement, for Maryland Department of Health, and Herb Jordan, their Chief EIO Officer, are available to answer your questions.

MR. DEMBROW: Thank you, Nelson. Lieutenant Governor, Madam Treasurer, Mr. Comptroller, good morning. For the record, this is Dana Dembrow. I'm the Director of the Office of Procurement and Support Services for the Maryland Department of Health. This Item 19-IT is a one-year extension of the Cognosante contract, now known as NTT. It's a \$9 million request with eligibility for 90 percent federal reimbursement for the contract to provide project management support for implementation of the new MMIS, the Medicaid Management Information System, which is the platform that Maryland relies upon to fulfill all of our Medicaid responsibilities, including reimbursement from the feds annually in the nature of billions of dollars.

We're in the midst of a massive transformation of MMIS through a dozen separate procurements, as you know, as we've modularized this new system, and it's going to cost hundreds of millions of dollars over the course of the next several years. In the meantime, we have this project management support. We have a team of IT experts from the department prepared to respond to the Lieutenant Governor's questions or any other questions. And if you wish to pose a question, I'll then turn the mic over to the Chief Information Officer Herb Jordan, who can introduce the team available to respond.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. My specific question deals with in the material it states that the department is developing a new,

or has developed a new task order request for proposal and expected there to be an award in December. To me that seems to be a long time for a task order. Because the idea of a task order is that it's a task under an existing contract where you've already had competition. I don't understand why it takes over seven months to issue a contract under a task order. Maybe Herb can explain some of that. The part that I'm looking at is process improvement. That's why I'm really concerned. If this is a challenge, it shouldn't be the case.

MR. JORDAN: Thank you. This is Herb Jordan, Enterprise Chief Information Officer for the Maryland Department of Health. Madam Treasurer, Governor, Mr. Comptroller, in response to your question, I will first introduce my panel of people who are going to help me answer these questions, just so you know who they are. I have present with me today Feyella Toney, who is the Director of Medicaid Systems Development. She is in charge of this new program, this Medicaid Enterprise Systems transformation project. I've got John Molnar. He's the Director of Portfolio Management who has put in place a lot of the changes to ensure this project, which is a much larger different project than its predecessor, works and addresses many of the concerns from that prior project. And I've got John Bohns, who also works as the Director of Procurement and Finance for the Office of Enterprise Technology as well. So those folks are all there.

So getting back to your specific question, I'd just like to say it's a privilege to be in front of you guys because so many years I've sat with Secretary Rhee on the other side of the microphone. It's a little different on this side. However, I'm here because Dennis Schrader couldn't be here. As you know, we're in the middle of a major healthcare crisis and Dennis Schrader, who is the Medicaid Director and also the Chief Operating Officer for the Maryland Department of Health, who is my boss, has been detailed for the COVID surge response. And so in his absence, I will address your questions.

So getting back to the task order and why it's taking so long. First of all, it's a very, very large task order and very complicated in the sense that this is the foundation for the success of this transformation and then going forward this modular project. This is the foundation. This is the most important procurement because we are providing the foundation for the leadership and many of the resources that they are going to need to make this project successful. In getting into the details of what that looks like in terms of have we gone through the process with this procurement, basically leveraging an existing master contract CATS to create this task order, it has taken a while for a lot of different reasons. John Molnar has been involved in the details of this (indiscernible). So I'll have John Molnar speak to this specifically why it's going to take as long as it is given that it's a task order contract.

MR. MOLNAR: No, and just very succinctly, and thanks for the time, and thanks Herb, but really, the task order is under the CATS contract. And I'm sure you are familiar with the CATS contract, Governor. The point of it is it has over 7,000 vendors on that contract. So whether it's negotiated or not, it certainly isn't negotiated at the level of detail that this task order is written. I think the task order itself is over 200 pages. So there are certainly specifics and details on this that have to be, you know, quoted within the response period. But again, we're dealing with 7,000 vendors that basically use a typical procurement process that we're going through. And certainly, the response to that task order request has been a very competitive environment that we're going through. I'm not going to give you the number. But I can just tell you that it's very competitive at this point and we are dealing with quite a bit of an evaluation process.

MR. JORDAN: And Governor, let me also add that the number of firms of that 7,000 that qualified for this procurement is 586.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Well, I think what we'll do, I'm not going to tie up everyone's time here, I think we'll, I'm going to look at that and ask our Office of Performance Improvement to look at the process associated with these task orders. Because I know it's complicated. But you know, I know on the federal side, and I think Herb is familiar with what happens on the federal side, I'm not sure it takes quite as long for an agency to

acquire program management or any other things using the GSA Schedule 70 or the GWACs or Governmentwide contract vehicles, that there are ways to streamline. And if our task order RFP is 200 pages, that sounds way, way too high, of too many provisions in there. But I'm not the one looking at that. I'd like to look at this process a little more carefully and make sure we're protecting ourselves and that we're getting the best value for what we're acquiring. But I just, the whole point of having task orders is that you've already had that pre-competition and you're coming back and negotiating price and services. And you are supposed to be able to move this a little quicker. So, but that is something we'll talk about as lessons learned as we work to try to improve our processes as we move forward, or answering the questions.

MR. JORDAN: Governor, I would also add if there's any way we could help you with that, we're all in. Obviously NASPO, like you said, we have a shortened cycle. As you imagine, the series of (indiscernible) prior to this, the critical path of all this is length of our procurement cycle. So if we can shorten it, it does great things for the Health Department in terms of getting this thing done.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Okay. Yeah. We have started the process looking at how that review process takes place, because I think that's a little cumbersome. There are too many hands that it's passing through. And in some cases, the same hands twice. And that doesn't really make

been under investigation for all sorts of scandalous activities. And I just hope we're on top of this.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Is Greg James, do you have Greg James available?

MR. REICHART: Secretary James is available to address this issue.

MR. JAMES: Good morning. This is Greg James, Deputy Secretary with the Maryland Department of Human Services. I have with me on line Tennille Thomas, who is our Chief of Staff for the Social Services Administration, as well as Antoinette White, who is one of our contract administrators who is involved in the monitoring of this program from the contract side of the shop. The actual oversight of the child and making sure the child is receiving the services that are needed is also performed by the case worker for this child.

So we currently have one youth placed at Cumberland Hospital in New Kent, Virginia. This youth has a very complex (indiscernible), and it is our understanding that there is no program, no hospital or child serving program in the State of Maryland that has the capacity to meet both those medical needs and the behavioral health need. So that is why the child was placed in Cumberland Hospital.

We are in frequent contact. So we have had monitoring visits with this program. We had a monitoring visit at the start of December. We then had an

unannounced site visit based upon the information that we received about the incidents that have occurred there. That occurred February 13th to 14th. As a result of the out-of-state travel restrictions, we have performed a video conference inspection on April 7th, and we have another video conference scheduled in May with this program. In addition, we have had, our case worker has had frequent contact with this child and we had two teleconferences in April. We will be in contact, we had another teleconference just at the start of this week, and have another one scheduled in approximately a week from now. So we are in constant contact with our child there, ensuring that they are safe.

The incident at Cumberland Hospital involved a doctor who was on staff there and allegations of improper sexual conduct with children at that program. Thankfully, based on our interviews there and our discussions directly, the child is very verbal and able to speak for themselves. Our child was not one of the children involved in that conduct. So it is our understanding that Cumberland Hospital, that individual obviously has been removed from duty and separated from that program, that there has been an intense investigation by their regulatory agency in Virginia, and that they have taken corrective actions there to address this situation. So based upon this, we do believe that this continues to be the best and appropriate placement for this youth at this time.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Okay. Thank you. You've been in touch with the leadership of the hospital or facility?

MR. JAMES: Absolutely.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Okay. But you know, the concerns there. Thank you very much for that, Governor, for letting me ask. I have one other item I'd just like to highlight, if I could.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Yes.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Very briefly. You know, the Board of Public Works is voting on contracts, which I think is important because we want to keep the business of the State functioning properly, and I particularly want to thank the Governor or the Legislature, someone, for the capital grant to Round House Theatre, which is in the neighborhood of the Treasurer in Bethesda. This Round House Theatre, in my opinion, is a cultural gem for our region. We're giving \$500,000 in capital improvement grants or matching money. And it's just one example among many of nonprofit organizations that have been hard hit by the coronavirus issue, but going to come back stronger. And I appreciate the support of the administration for moving Round House Theatre forward. It's the type of thing that I guess could be put at the end of the line and not considered for a while. But it's important that we keep moving these dollars out where appropriate and justified. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: And I'm going to just mention that I was just on a call yesterday with one of the groups we're talking to, along with the 13 industry groups that Commerce is talking to, and our Office of Community Initiatives has two separate groups. One is the faith community, and the other is the nonprofit community. And I was on a call with the nonprofits yesterday, where the conversation is requesting from these different groups, the nonprofits, the industry groups, the faith groups, how they can reopen safely. Trying to get their input, their best practices to tell us, you know, in terms of government how can they come back to operation and how they can work to make sure people are as safe as possible as they do. So we're trying to, you know, reach out to all that are involved and make sure that, you know, our nonprofit community comes back as well as the commercial side as well.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Excellent. Thank you. I would move approval unless there are other questions.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Any questions, Madam Treasurer, on the General Services?

TREASURER KOPP: I would echo what the Comptroller said, of course, about Round House. But also point out that so many of our community organizations, most particularly thinking of the arts community right now, are doing a terrific job of reaching out to the community via these instruments that we're all

using now, both with performances and with classes. It's really, it's just terrific. And I trust it will be one of the lessons learned and continue when we're all back together again. Yeah. Great institution, Round House.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Very good.

TREASURER KOPP: Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: Live theater is wonderful. So okay. I think we have a motion from the Comptroller.

COMPTROLLER FRANCHOT: Move to approve.

TREASURER KOPP: Second.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RUTHERFORD: All right. So we're all in favor. Thank you, Deputy Secretary Reichart. And thank you all. I think that is the end of our Agenda. Thank you very much.

TREASURER KOPP: Thank you. See you in two weeks.

MR. REICHART: Thank you, Board members. Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 12:11 p.m., the meeting was concluded.)