

**MMRS Steering Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 4, 2024**

Location: E.T. Woolfolk State Office Building
501 North West Street, 14th Floor
Jackson, Mississippi

Committee Members Present: Kelly Hardwick - Executive Director, State Personnel Board (MSPB); David Johnson - Executive Director, Information Technology Services (ITS); and Liz Welch, Chairman – Executive Director, Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

Others Present: Ray Christopher with Mississippi Department of Child Protective Services; Stephanie Hedgepeth, Amber Dupree, Steve Patterson, and Brian Norwood with ITS; Timothy Smith and Mir Mazhar with Horne; Nick Anderson, Liz Bolin, Richard Rogers, Michael Gonzolez, Gilda Reyes, Mike Lanford, Jason Quon, and Marcy Scoggins with DFA; Mark Schexnaildre with Epi-USE; Randy Townsend with SAP Success Factors; and Bethany Stanfill with BSS Global

I. Call to Order

A quorum being present, Liz Welch called the meeting to order at 2:01 P.M.

II. Discussion for Steering Committee

Kelly Hardwick made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting, as amended by David Johnson, for December 28, 2022; January 9, 2023; February 10, 2023, March 20, 2023, July 13, 2023, and November 29, 2023. Liz Welch seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

The Chair then recognized Christopher Ray with MDCPS. CPS would like to purchase Grants Plus, a grants management software. The committee asked if the MAGIC would still be the system of record. MMRS confirmed that MAGIC would still have all of the information and be the system of record for the payments.

Johnson reminded the committee that ITS has set the standard not to pay for duplicative programs. When a system that might have some overlap comes up, ITS sends the request to the committee for approval. Hardwick made a motion to approve the purchase and Welch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair then gave an update of the payroll implementation. She acknowledged that difficulties remain with the transition. She had interviewed all involved and no one felt the system was ready to roll out. SPAHRS is old, but continues to hang on, so the decision was made to audit SPAHRS to get a better idea of the issues. The Chair recognized Mir Mazhar with Horne

Mizhar acknowledged that SPHARS has been around for over two decades and it was reaching the end of the lifespan. HORNE worked to do an evaluation system readiness audit of the people, process and technology. They reviewed the data flows, unresolved defects, and other issues from the SAP perspective and the reporting perspective.

Mizhar shared the findings and concerns of the audit, and presented three options for the path forward:

1. Status Quo – Continue on the path and work on issues as they arise
2. Hybrid Model – Continue with the finance model that is working and use both systems
3. Stop and reset – This would move everyone back to SPAHRS until a clear roadmap was determined for the path forward.

Welch recommended option 3 with the understanding they would keep SPAHRS stable and move information to the cloud. Hardwick thanked everyone for their work and agreed that Option 3 would be in the state's best interest.

Johnson agreed that a path forward was a necessity but was concerned about the immediate working solution. He questioned several risks and noted there were other issues involved as well.

After a discussion of the options, Hardwick made a motion that pursuant to the presentation by HORNE, the committee approve the stop and reset option to roll back and re-evaluate a solution to move forward considering the technical requirements that ITS recommends.

Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Chair thanked everyone for their work and praised the efforts by all teams over the past few months. Hardwick made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

These Minutes of the MMRS Steering Committee were approved by the members on the 15th day of Sept. Month 2026 year.


Liz Welch, Chairman

9-15-26
Date