



Meeting Minutes
Maryland Cybersecurity Council
February 7, 2025
Virtual Format

Council Members Present or Represented (27/47)

Howard Barr (OAG chair designate), John Abeles, Lance Cleghorn (DoIT), Tasha Cornish, Dr. Michel Cukier, Dr. Anton Dahbura, Robert Day, Marcia Deppen (MDEM), Major Tawn Gregory (State Police), Terri Jo Hayes, Senator Katie Fry Hester, Ryan Hsu, Brian Israel, Kristin Bryce Jones, Dr. Anupam Joshi, Tony Campbell (Military Department), Mary Kane, Miheer Khona, Mathew Lee, Bel Leong-hong, Blair Levin, Kimberly Mentzell (Commerce), Robin Morse (NSA), Rodney Petersen (NIST), Jonathan Powell, Markus Rauschecker, and Troy Stoval.

Invited Subject Matter Experts

Jennifer Tang, Tiffany Saade, and Steve Kelly, Institute for Security and Technology, on their 2024 report, AI and Cybersecurity: Shifting the Offense-Defense Balance.

Staff Attending

Rhea Harris (Assistant Legislative Affairs Director, OAG), Dr. Matt Mitroka (2024 NSA Fellow), Bridget O'Toole (Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Katie Fry Hester), and Dr. Greg von Lehmen (University of Maryland Global Campus, Staff to the Council).

Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Barr opened the meeting, welcoming members and guests, and reviewing the agenda. He then introduced the subject matter experts from the Institute for Security and Technology (IST) to brief the Council on their October 2024 AI report and to answer questions. He noted that AI and its implications for cybersecurity is a concern for both the Council and the State and pointed to recent legislative activity by the General Assembly in this area.

A recording of the IST presentation and discussion may be found [here](#). As a separate reference, their PowerPoint presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Turning to the business agenda and the administrative items, the Mr. Barr noted as a point of information that the recording of the October 22, 2024, meeting had been posted on the Council's website. He asked if there was a quorum. A quorum for the meeting was later confirmed as members continued to join the meeting.

For OAG updates, Mr. Barr invited Ms. Rhea Harris from OAG to provide an overview of SB 294 (Maryland Cybersecurity Council - Membership – Alterations). She noted that the bill calls for a chair serving two year terms to be elected by the Council in lieu of OAG chairing and for appointments to the Council to be made by the Governor's Office instead of OAG. Ms. Harris explained that one purpose of the changes was to position the Council to select a chair with

deeper expertise in cybersecurity policy issues to lead the body. OAG would remain on the Council.

Senator Hester noted that she was in discussion with OAG and the Senate President's Office about amendments to the Council bill. These concerned how members would be appointed, managing the problem of inactive members (impacting quorums), and broadening the scope of the Council to consider other issues related to AI. Other members suggested broadening the scope of the Council to quantum and emerging technologies in general. Senator Hester observed that 'emerging technologies' was broad and could dilute the effectiveness of the Council. She offered that the issues could warrant more discussion and mentioned the possibility of convening a sidebar meeting that any members would be welcome to attend.

Mr. Barr then asked Dr. Matt Mitroka, the Council's NSA Fellow for the last 12 months, to provide an overview of his final report on the cybersecurity of the community water and wastewater service providers in Maryland. Mr. Barr expressed his appreciation to Dr. Mitroka for his research effort which included the review of numerous cybersecurity reports and many interviews with federal officials, water service operators in Maryland, State and local government officials, and staff at the Institute for the Governance of Technology and Systems at the University of Maryland, among others. He noted that the Subcommittee on Critical Infrastructure, with a quorum present, had endorsed the report and its recommendations to the full Council at its December 9, 2024, meeting.

Dr. Mitroka's presentation may be viewed [here](#). Dr. von Lehmen mentioned that Dr. Mitroka's entire report would be posted on the Council's [website](#) under "Reports of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council".

Following Dr. Mitroka's presentation, Mr. Ableles, chair of the Subcommittee on Critical Infrastructure, moved that the Council adopt the report and its recommendations. Ms. Bel Leong-hong seconded the motion. After discussion, and with a quorum of the Council present, Mr. Barr called for the motion which passed without objection.

The chair then asked the various subcommittees for any updates that they might have. Blair Levin (Subcommittee on Law and Policy) reported that the subcommittee was coordinating a meeting to establish its policy agenda for the year. Similarly, Dr. Anton Dahbura (Subcommittee on Public Outreach) noted the subcommittee would meet in late March to discuss its webinar schedule and a possible conference concept it would bring back to the Council for discussion at its summer meeting.

Updates from OSM and MDEM for the Subcommittee on Incident Response were provided by Marcia Deppen (Director of the Cyber Preparedness Unit) and Lance Cleghorn (Director of State Cybersecurity within OSM). Ms. Deppen provided the following updates:

- Her unit is working with the Baltimore Urban Security Initiative to create a cyber incident coordination plan among jurisdictions in Maryland's Central Region and is developing a training curriculum for jurisdictions that would want it.
- Similarly, her unit is engaged with the Metro Washington Council of Governments to exercise a new mutual aid plan that MDEM helped to create.

- She noted that MDEM is consulting with the Maryland Center for School Safety to develop a template that K12 can use for survivor response plans.
- Finally, she mentioned that the SLCGP is no longer paused and that Maryland has been approved for a third year of funding. She mentioned that to date Maryland has received \$5 million which has been disbursed to local jurisdictions to enhance their cybersecurity posture.

Mr. Cleghorn commended the work that MDEM is doing with the Maryland Center for School Safety to revamp their incident response plans. As an update for OSM, he emphasized in his updates the launch of the ISO program by OSM. The ISO team consists of 18 staff, and its purpose is to provide no-cost cybersecurity consultation to State agencies. He noted that while available to all Executive Branch agencies, the ones that can benefit most are the smaller ones. The ISO program helps them understand how to adopt centralized cybersecurity services and to better secure their systems for the State. He underscored that the ISO teams recognize that their effectiveness depends on understanding the mission of the agencies that they are working with so that they can advise them respectfully and intelligently.

For the Subcommittee on Critical on Critical Infrastructure, John Abeles alluded to the fact that the subcommittee had met twice with Dr. Mitroka since the October plenary meeting to review and provide inputs to his report and that the subcommittee obviously thought the report was very strong. In other remarks, he shared information about incoming CISA leadership and the changes in the federal regulatory environment that will likely reduce the regulatory activity of agencies with respect to cybersecurity over the next four years.

The report for Subcommittee on Economic Development and the Subcommittee on Cyber Education and Workforce Development was a joint one. Bel Leong Hong, chair of the former, underscored the intersection between cyber economic development workforce development, and yielded her time to Senator Hester, chair of the latter subcommittee, to provide the joint report. Senator Hester's update for both subcommittees was the following:

The two subcommittees worked hard in combined meetings this fall to formulate ideas that might inform the State's cyber workforce policy development.

- They met three times through October, November, and December
- They considered solutions to the K12 teacher shortage in cybersecurity. In that connection, they had a presentation by the Newark NJ School District on their use of AI tutors to support STEM education in the district.
- Likewise, the subcommittees met with representatives of the Consortium of Cyber Clinics at UC-Berkeley to learn more about the consortium and to consider how Maryland postsecondary institutions could participate. Such clinics could be a win/win for MD organizations seeking help with their cybersecurity and for the participating students.
- The December meeting was an extended one. The subcommittees' ideas were collected to inform the State strategic plan for cyber workforce development and implementing legislation this year.
- These subcommittee meetings over the fall ran in parallel to Senator Hester's discussions with Labor Secretary Wu and others about the CyberMaryland Program. Senator Hester mentioned that these discussions produced two bills for the current legislative session. The

DoL produced a draft bill first (SB 241/HB 82 [CyberMaryland Program Revisions]), followed by Senator Hester's bill SB 867 (Cyber Maryland Program – Revisions). Both are close in essential respects. The Senator invited Council members to testify.

With the conclusion of the subcommittee reports, Mr. Barr announced that the tentative dates for the Council's summer and fall meetings were June 13 and October 31, respectively. He then asked if there was other business that any members wished to discuss. Hearing none, he asked for motions to adjourn. On motions from Ms. Leong-hong and Dr. Joshi, the Council adjourned without objection.