MLDS Center
Maryland Longitudinal Data System

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MEMORANDUM

TO:　　　　MLDS Governing Board

FROM:　　Ross Goldstein

DATE:　　 May 28, 2021

SUBJECT:　Data Center Hosting

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to update the Board on the Center's plans to move the Center's system from MSDE to the State's enterprise data center.

Background

The Center identified the need to update its data Center three years ago. The Center hired a system architecture consultant to review several options, including database platform and various hosting options including cloud hosting. The consultant concluded based on a variety of factors that maintaining an Oracle database at the State's enterprise data center was the best option.

Implementation

Last month, the Center requested and received approval from the Department of Budget and Management to proceed with the project. The following are the initial steps.

1. DoIT identified the software needed for the migration and has initiated the procurement. The software cost is approximately $120,000. The Center will pay for the software from FY 21 general funds. We are waiting for DoIT's direction to execute a funding transfer between agencies.
2. Hardware needed for the migration has been identified by DoIT. The hardware package will allow the Center to have its data isolated on its own servers within the enterprise data center. Cost and procurement of the servers has not been finalized by DoIT.
3. DoIT will draft and provide the Center with a finalized Statement of Work to govern all aspects of the project from the setup of the new servers to the transfer and decommissioning of the old servers.

Moving to the new enterprise data center will accomplish the following:

1. Technology Refresh - The physical server cluster we currently have at MSDE Data Center is 10 years old and out of warranty.
2. Physical Security - TierPoint facility provides better security.
3. Performance - Since network routing will be within the same premises, operation performance will be improved.
4. Management and Control of Oracle Database Systems and DoIT support will remain the same
5. TierPoint Data Center Security
   - 24x7x365 electronic and physical security - access restricted to authorized personnel
   - Interior and exterior surveillance cameras

- Entrance and exit controlled by access cards
- Automatic switching from primary to backup power supply

Additional technical details will be provided to the MLDS Governing Board Cybersecurity Subcommittee at its next meeting.

Action
Information purposes only.