

Security review minor part of consultant's contract

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

A consultant hired by Gov. Kate Brown to conduct an independent assessment of management practices and security vulnerabilities at the state data center is instead using the bulk of the contract to help the state's administrative department overhaul the way it charges other government agencies for technology services.

Brown called for the independent review of the data center in March, at the same time she revealed that hackers gained access to information about how data was stored at the center. It was the third high-profile state data breach in 13 months.

The data center stores information for government agencies including tax returns and health care records. The data center also stores state email correspondence and although Brown did not mention it in her announcement about the independent review, state officials were also trying to figure out who leaked thousands of former Gov. John Kitzhaber's emails to the Willamette Week newspaper.

The state signed a contract worth nearly \$300,000 with the financial and management consultant The PFM Group in May, and the consultants immediately set to work interviewing more than 70 state employees and other people with an interest in the state's centralized technology services to learn how the system could be improved.

By June 15, The PFM Group had completed its review of the data center's management and security vulnerabilities and presented the results to the Governor's Office.

Consultants summed up their findings in a 12-page slideshow document that lists general conclusions, for example, that the technology division had inadequate internal controls, lacked a formal quality assurance function and had "high levels of critical unfilled positions." The PFM Group also concluded "the events of the last few months have their root causes in predominantly three areas: finances, management, leadership."

The PFM Group presentation did not discuss the causes of the data breach Brown revealed in March. Matt Shelby, a spokesman for the Department of Administrative Services, which operates the data center, said the breach "was more of a structural issue."

Shelby said The PFM Group's work resulted in a couple of changes at the data center. Although the state already had an administrator in charge of security, Chief Information Security Officer Stefan Richards, security was just one component of the job for data center employees and no one at the center was completely focused on security.

"One of the things they found that they articulated to (State Chief Information Officer Alex Pettit) was the responsibility for security was spread out over a large number of individuals," Shelby said.



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The Department of Administrative Services data center in Salem. A contractor whose work was to include a review of state computer security practices has spent more time figuring out how the DAS should charge other agencies for computer services.

Not a new idea

Based on The PFM Group's recommendations, Shelby said, the Department of Administrative Services reassigned some existing employees to focus on security and assigned the employees to work at the data center.

It was not a new idea. State auditors at the Secretary of State's office had been looking into security problems at the data center since December 2014, and were wrapping up their work by the time The PFM Group began its review. Auditors, who had repeatedly identified security problems at the data center dating back to 2006, wrote that "when developing the data center, planners stressed the importance of establishing specific security functions, roles and responsibilities within the data center. However, this did not occur as planned."

Auditors identified security problems at the data center in six previous public audits and at least as many confidential audits shared only with state officials due to security concerns about the specific details included. A consultant also identified some of the same concerns in 2008. However, the Department of Administrative Services never addressed many of the vulnerabilities, including management problems.

"In earlier audits, we found that management did not resolve security weaknesses because they did not clearly define or communicate security standards, or assign overall responsibility for managing the security function," auditors wrote in the most recent audit. "Many identified security weak-

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— State auditors

nesses continued to exist simply because nobody had the authority or responsibility to resolve them."

The audit report was released in August, after the Department of Administrative Services finished writing its response to the review.

Long list of technical failures

Unlike The PFM Group, state auditors did identify a long list of technical failures that caused security vulnerabilities at the data center.

For example, the Department of Administrative repeatedly purchased systems to detect cyber intruders but never fully implemented them. The data center also used obsolete devices, including a type of network device that was already outdated when the facility opened in 2006. Obsolete technology is more vulnerable to hackers, because the manufacturers soon stop providing updates to patch vulnerabilities.

"In 2014, the department requested and received additional funds from the Legislature to replace the hardware and other computing equipment," auditors wrote. "Management indicated that they are hiring contracted

staff to accelerate the replacement of the obsolete equipment, but the project will continue well through 2016."

Meanwhile, The PFM Group continues to work on the new methodology for the Department of Administrative Services to charge other government agencies for technology services. Shelby said the goal is to make it more clear what services agencies receive when they pay for centralized technology services.

"That work needs to be wrapped up by the end of this year because we need to present a new rate structure and budget request to the Legislature in (February)," Shelby wrote in an email.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Earning an A in mental health

County's treatment court graduates record number

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County's treatment court honored a record graduating class of eight people during a gathering Monday morning in Circuit Court.

Treatment court — not to be confused with drug court for people charged with felony drug-related crimes — was created in 2009 for nonviolent offenders who have been diagnosed with a mental illness or substance-abuse disorders.

Circuit Court Judge Cindee Matyas, who acts as the treatment court judge, said 108 people have participated in treatment court with 42 graduating. Each person's requirements and journey to graduation are different. Basic requirements are attending the treatment court every week, meeting with treatment providers and staying away from drugs and alcohol.

Treatment court is required as a condition of some probations. Most participants are referred following a sentence and given the option of jail time or going to treatment court, according to the county.

"We measure success in a lot of different ways," Matyas said.

Brittany Ferguson, who has participated in both drug and treatment courts, spoke to the class about how the programs have helped turn her life around.

"Life has not gotten easier, but I have gotten stronger," she said. Cannon Beach Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn and state Rep. Deborah Boone also addressed the class.

Judge Matyas handed each graduate a certificate with a quote from Viktor E. Frankl, an Austrian neurologist, psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor, that said, "When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves."

The quote sums up what treatment court is about and what the graduates are about, Matyas said.

Matyas described the graduating class as having a cheerleader, a traveler, a veteran, an ambassador, a comedian, a communicator, a caretaker and a student.

One of the graduates said completing treatment court was the hardest two years of her life. Another graduate thanked the treatment court team — Judge Matyas, probation officers and treatment professionals — for caring. If they did not care, the graduate said, she would not have made it.

One other graduate simply said, "Treatment court saved my life."



Deborah Boone



Cindee Matyas



Jason Schermerhorn



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WomenHeart
of North Oregon Coast
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CMH Health & Wellness Pavilion
3rd Floor Conference Room
2165 Exchange Street
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Nov 18: Heart Healthy Cooking

Join your local chapter of WomenHeart, an organization for women living with or at risk of heart disease. This chapter is sponsored by Columbia Memorial Hospital.

Contact Michele Abrahams
for more information at
WH-NorthOregonCoast@
womenheart.org.



WomenHeart is the only national organization dedicated to advancing women's heart health through advocacy, community education and patient support. As the leading voice for the 42 million American women living with or at risk of heart disease, WomenHeart advocates for equal access to quality care and provides information and resources to help women take charge of their heart health.

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**Public invited to an annual meeting
of the
Lewis and Clark Cemetery Association**

— Sunday, November 8th, 1 pm —

**Englund Marine conference room-
second floor.
95 Hamburg Avenue, Astoria.**

I Am Thankful

*This is the time of year when we
reflect on our lives and our blessings*

There are many that list something they are thankful
for each day in November on social media.

On Thanksgiving Day,
The Daily Astorian will dedicate a
full page in our classified section to the
community, allowing a time to share
something you are thankful for.

There is a 20 word maximum for each submission.
This allows more people to participate.

How to participate:

email your "I am thankful" to- hlarkins@dailyastorian.com
or mail to- The Daily Astorian, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103,
Attn: Holly Larkins
Deadline: November 20th at 5pm.