



Department of
Administrative Services

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Matt Damschroder, Director

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

2020 FEB 14 PM 12: 05

February 14, 2020

Mr. Randall J. Meyer
Ohio Inspector General
30 East Broad Street, Suite 2940
Columbus, OH 43215-3414

Dear Inspector General Meyer:

This letter is in response to the recommendations made by your office to the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (DAS) in File ID Number: 2018-CA00012. ODAS appreciates the input received from the Ohio Inspector General's Office in this and past reports as well as your recognition that we have taken an active role in addressing, strengthening and enforcing new stronger procurement guidance.

Understanding the need for continuous improvement and our responsibility to operate in a fair and ethical manner, we are taking the following actions in response to your recommendations:

Recommendations:

1. Review the conduct of Rex Plouck and any other named individuals in this report to determine if debarment is warranted pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §125.25.

Response:

We will commence debarment proceedings against Rex Plouck. Further, based on this report, we will review our current debarment proceeding against Advocate Solutions to see if we should issue a superseding Notice of Intent to debar Advocate Solutions to include additional grounds.

2. Consider developing vendor ethics policies and incorporate those provisions into the standard terms and conditions for state purchases.

Response:

In addition to the current requirement that vendors comply with all state ethics laws, we will supplement our standard terms and conditions to include enhanced ethics policies.

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3. Consider implementing policies regarding the sharing of draft RFP's and RFQ's with vendors not currently working on the document to ensure fair and transparent competition, and to avoid the ability of those vendors to provide specifics in an effort to tailor the RFP towards their company.

Response:

We will implement policies regarding the sharing of draft RFP's and RFQ's with vendors not currently working on the document to ensure fair and transparent competition, and to avoid the ability of those vendors to provide specifics in an effort to tailor the RFP towards their company.

We appreciate this opportunity to share our responses. Should you have any questions regarding our response, or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



Matthew M. Damschroder
Director