

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CYBER MARYLAND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 8th, 2026

MEETING DETAILS

The Cyber Maryland Board of Directors convened for a regular meeting at 12:00 p.m. on July 8, 2026, virtually via Google Meet. A quorum was present with Board members and agency representatives in attendance.

Cyber Maryland Board Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM.

Roll Call

Amy Pearlman
Elena Quiroz-Livanis
Gregg Smith
James Saunders
Karen King-Sheridan
Ken Allman
Kim Mentzell
Kirk Murray
Laura Nelson
Leza Griffith
Loyce Pailen
Natalie Wisnoski
Portia Wu
Roger Austin
Seeyew Mo
Supro Ghose
Thomas Byrd
Senator Hester (phone)

Roger Austin welcomed members, reviewed the Cyber Maryland mission statement, and outlined the meeting agenda.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the May 13, 2026 meeting minutes.

Motion:

To approve the May 13, 2026 meeting minutes.

Vote:

Approved unanimously.

Result: Motion passed at 12:07 PM.

Proposed Subcommittee Structure

Roger Austin presented recommendations from the Future Advisory Committees working group. The group, composed of Roger Austin, Loyce Pailen, Thomas Byrd, and Senator Katie Fry Hester, held three working sessions following the May Board meeting to develop recommendations for future Board governance.

Discussion highlights included:

The working group recommended establishing four standing Board subcommittees:

Governance, Data & Metrics, Outreach & Engagement, Best Practices

Roger Austin reviewed the proposed purpose and responsibilities of each subcommittee, including governance responsibilities, data oversight, stakeholder engagement, and the identification and dissemination of best practices.

Members discussed the proposed relationship between the Board's standing subcommittees and a broader Advisory Group intended to engage external stakeholders across industry, government, philanthropy, and higher education.

Secretary Wu noted that technology and workforce needs continue to evolve rapidly and expressed support for creating an Advisory Group that could provide timely feedback and subject matter expertise. She asked whether responsibility for the Advisory Group would reside within one of the proposed standing subcommittees.

Seeyew Mo clarified that the Advisory Group is intended to operate separately from the standing subcommittees. While Governance would serve primarily as a supporting committee, staff noted that Outreach & Engagement or Best Practices could potentially provide oversight of the Advisory Group in the future, although a final governance structure has not yet been determined.

Members discussed future processes for appointing Advisory Group members and Board committee participation. Seeyew indicated that interested individuals should contact Cyber Maryland and that a formal process would be developed in coordination with Board leadership.

Roger Austin encouraged Board members to contribute their expertise through committee participation as implementation planning continues.

Motion:

To approve the proposed standing subcommittee structure and Advisory Group framework as presented by the Chair.

Vote:

Approved unanimously.

Result: Motion passed at approximately 12:17 PM.

FY27 Priorities

Supro Ghose assumed facilitation of the meeting while Roger Austin temporarily addressed technical connectivity issues.

Seeyew Mo presented an overview of Cyber Maryland's proposed FY27 priorities.

Discussion highlights included:

Seeyew Mo provided updates on several planned FY27 initiatives, including approved initiatives (Security Clearance Solicitation and the K-12 cybersecurity initiative) and initiatives under consideration (AI Upskilling for Cyber Professionals, Transition Workers to Cyber initiative, and Lighthouse Cyber and AI Internships). In addition, initiatives that Cyber MD helps to shape, but not fund were discussed, such as MD TRAIN, EARN, and other partnerships. Seeyew Mo noted that the Security Clearance Solicitation remains under development and is expected to be released in September 2026.

The proposed FY27 investments include AI upskilling for incumbent cybersecurity professionals, workforce transition pathways for individuals moving into cybersecurity from adjacent occupations, continued Lighthouse internship investments, and implementation of the K-12 initiative in coordination with the Maryland State Department of Education following release of its AI Framework.

The Board discussed the importance of aligning workforce investments with employer demand, industry credentialing opportunities, and evolving artificial intelligence workforce needs.

Seeyew Mo emphasized that FY27 priorities are intended to strengthen employer engagement while supporting innovation across Maryland's workforce development ecosystem.

EDA Grant Proposal

Seeyew Mo presented the proposed Cyber Artificial Intelligence Convening (CAIC) and the associated Economic Development Administration grant application.

Discussion highlights included:

Seeyew Mo reviewed the proposed sector partnership, which would support AI upskilling for cybersecurity professionals through coordinated employer partnerships, workforce providers, higher education institutions, and industry stakeholders.

The proposal includes development of a coordinated digital platform intended to connect workforce participants with training opportunities, workforce analytics, employer engagement, and skills validation resources.

Seeyew Mo noted that the proposal would also support simulated operational training environments, including digital twin capabilities and existing cyber range infrastructure, to provide practical cybersecurity training experiences.

Ashley Moore asked how outside stakeholders could participate in the initiative. Staff indicated that Cyber Maryland would establish a process for interested organizations and individuals to express interest as implementation progresses.

Secretary Quiroz-Livanis discussed opportunities to better integrate higher education pathways, financial aid, and credentialing opportunities into the initiative. Members emphasized the importance of designing workforce pathways that complement existing educational programs while supporting demonstrated workforce competencies.

Gregg Smith requested additional examples illustrating how artificial intelligence training directly supports cybersecurity occupations.

James Saunders discussed current examples of AI-assisted cybersecurity operations, noting that security operations centers are already using AI tools to support investigations and cybersecurity analysis.

Seeyew Mo described anticipated training areas, including AI-assisted cybersecurity analysis, threat hunting, vulnerability management, security automation, secure software development, AI governance, AI application security, and secure deployment of AI-enabled systems. Members discussed the distinction between AI upskilling for incumbent cybersecurity professionals and reskilling individuals from adjacent technology occupations into cybersecurity careers.

Senator Hester expressed support for the overall proposal while requesting additional budget transparency regarding FY27 investments. She asked whether the proposed state match would redirect funding from previously approved Cyber Maryland initiatives.

Seeyew Mo clarified that the proposal does not reallocate existing program funding and instead utilizes planned FY27 investments focused on AI upskilling and AI reskilling. Staff noted that previous Board approvals primarily addressed FY26 investments and that several initiatives, including portions of the K-12 program, had already shifted into FY27 implementation.

Senator Hester requested future budget materials providing a multi-year summary of funding allocations, previously approved investments, deferred funding, and remaining available resources to improve Board oversight.

Members discussed opportunities to improve reporting by providing a simplified view of investments, outcomes, and future funding priorities.

Secretary Wu emphasized that the proposed EDA award represents an opportunity to leverage significant federal funding while expanding workforce investments beyond entry-level cybersecurity positions.

Supro Ghose and members agreed that stronger employer engagement and validated workforce pathways will be important components of future implementation.

Motion:

To authorize submission of a letter supporting the Economic Development Administration grant application and to approve the proposed state matching funds contingent upon award of the federal grant, with final fund implementation details to be reviewed by the Board or an appropriate Board subcommittee.

Vote:

Approved unanimously.

Result: Motion passed at approximately 1:02 PM.



Open Items

Members briefly discussed future Board priorities and upcoming opportunities for engagement. Staff noted that additional discussion regarding RAISE US and future implementation activities would occur at a subsequent meeting.

Adjournment

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting.

Vote:

Approved unanimously.

Result: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:05 PM.

