

OGAG Draft Meeting Notes May 18, 2017

Summary:

Barney Krucoff updated us on the new DC Data Policy, which has gone into effect. The clock has started on some upcoming deadlines, such as the deadline for OCTO to finish the data inventory tool so that agencies can submit dataset metadata to the new data inventory. We discussed how to measure success, both for the implementation of the Data Policy as well as for the Mayor and City Administrator's goals for 2018. And we got an update from the committee working on creating a data publisher toolkit and a blog, both for finding and disseminating best practices for open government in the District. Eight members were present. We're still waiting on MOTA to fill the vacant public member seat.

Meeting began at 4:17pm.

Members in attendance:

Karuna Seshasai (EOM), Lyndsey Miller-Vierra (DMPSJ), Clarence Wardell (Public Member), David Tseng (CFO), Barney Krucoff (OCTO), Robert Becker (Public Member), Joshua Tauberer (Public Member), Jennifer Reed (CA). On the phone: Sandra Moscoso (Public Member).

With eight members present, we did not reach a quorum (12).

Also with us:

Sakina Thompson, who might be joining the group as the designee of DMHHS.

Dave Bishop.

Public comment time:

Dave Bishop: Happy to see that the new DC Data Policy has started.

Comments on minutes:

Robert Becker: Suggested change to previous meetings' minutes regarding how the open government bill in the Council would require that FOIA records requested go on the FOIA portal.

New members of OGAG and update on filling the vacant seat:

Jennifer Reed: As we know Aliya resigned from OGAG when she moved to New York. MOTA is still looking through applications to fill the position. Karuna Seshasai was recently appointed – and is here.

Tene Dolphin was recently appointed as the designee of DMHHS – but is not here, and Sakina Thompson who is here will probably be taking Tene’s place in OGAG.

Joshua Tauberer: The mayor issued an order making it a requirement that public members of OGAG be residents of the Districts. The mayor should ideally not be changing the nature of the group without talking to the group first. Even though in this case it’s probably a good thing, but we should be involved.

Robert Becker: Need to fix how government members of OGAG are not showing up, too.

We then discussed whether gov members of OGAG can send designees so that we can have a quorum without the named appointed member present. Robert Becker said it shouldn’t be a new person every time – we need continuity to carry out our work. Jennifer Reed said she will follow up with public members on whether they have time commitment to show up and will talk to MOTA on getting clarity on gov members sending designees, and status of the appointment of new members.

Update on Data Policy:

Barney Krucoff gave a presentation on the Data Policy (<https://octo.dc.gov/page/district-columbia-data-policy>), which was signed by the mayor in April 27. The clock now starts on milestones required by the Data Policy to occur a certain number of days after the Policy was announced, with next item being OCTO releasing the data inventory tool for agencies to submit data inventory metadata around June 1. Is currently getting agency volunteers to test the data inventory tool and will be doing training for agencies in early June. Also hoping to do training for agency general counsels since they are now a part of the data release process. Will be asking agencies to find how they answered Council questions on data systems because they may already have produced the inventory they need for the new data policy. Then intends to publish the inventory January 26, 2018.

Barney showed slides on his working criteria for success. Some criteria are already satisfied: We have a CDO and CISO. Some criteria coming next/hopefully soon: OCA reinforcing policy through Stat and KPI process; Agency Data Officers and Agency Information Security Officers designated. Barney hopes to make an open data set of agencies as a part of doing this. Expectation: Thousands of datasets should be listed in the inventory. Hundreds would be disappointing. There are also some success criteria for FOIA: Are we responding to requests in a timely way, etc. Is info be released respectful of privacy etc?

We then discussed the role of the newly designated (or soon to be designated) Agency Data Officers (ADOs) relative to the need for data users (the general public, researchers, lawyers, other DC government agencies) to contact data owners/stewards/analysts with questions about data, and about problems in getting access to data in the first place. This point was raised by Robert Becker. Sakina Thompson asked about best practices in the open data world for connecting data users with data stewards.

Barney Krucoff and Jennifer Reed noted that ADOs may not be the public information officers of the agency and in the Data Policy ADOs have an internal responsibility of preparing the inventory, rather

than an external responsibility; we don't want to burden them with answering questions, which could be time consuming.

Karuna Seshasai: A conversation with FOIA officers could be helpful.

Jennifer Reed: Let's ask the interagency data team how they think it will make sense to handle this problem.

Clarence Wardell: Connecting outside users to gov stewards is a good aspirational goal. Also helps gov-to-gov connections.

We then moved on to discussing measurements of success.

Jennifer Reed: Agency performance plans are moving to "good governance metrics" in 2018 across agencies on basic business functions: including budgeting, human resources, and also openness and transparency. Out of 25 District priority goals from the Mayor and City Administrator, one is to make the District a leader in open government, and OGAG can help the mayor and CA identify metrics and long term strategies to know if we are being successful at being open, and things to do in the upcoming year.

Robert Becker: Are we asking why we're keeping datasets around at all, especially when we're not maintaining quality? It costs money to collect data.

Barney Krucoff: No we're not asking that question, but the data policy does address not collecting data that isn't needed.

Jennifer Reed: The inventory will help us find bad data and what kinds of problems there are. There are different kinds of bad.

Lyndsey Miller-Vierra: Really need an inventory first, and identifying bad data is good phase-two work.

Lyndsey Miller-Vierra: On measuring success, shouldn't we measure whether the public is using the data?

Barney Krucoff: The real outcome is is it doing good in the world? That's too hard to measure. Are people coming back to use the data? Right now we can't get meaningful numbers on use.

David Tseng: Let's add placemarkers to the metrics we have for the future questions we want to ask that we can't answer now.

Joshua Tauberer: There are middle-ground metrics: Qualitative case-studies. Very long term: Is this improving how the District manages its data?

Barney Krucoff: The new domain tables he wants to create, like a list of agencies and their acronyms, is along the way to better data management.

Lyndsey Miller-Vierra: Likes the idea of case studies of how things are really going. A few months down the line, let's find interactions that were triggered by the inventory. Something this group could help with.

Jennifer Reed: Do we ask for stories on the open data site?

Barney Krucoff: We do brag about stories like one about a union reps to use DCRA permit data to get their members' jobs on sites(?). We'll tell positive stories, of course.

Update on the Data Publishers Toolkit:

Joshua Tauberer reported on behalf of Julie Kanzler, Kathryn Pettit, Sandra Moscoso and himself on the status of developing a toolkit for data publishers:

Our committee discussed starting a blog, run outside of OGAG but hopefully with the participation of OGAG members, that would highlight success stories in openness in the District – something more real than just bragging about successes though. We'll send around an email when we have something set up.

The goal of the data publisher's toolkit is to work with District data stewards who are already publishing data to find tips and best practices around getting data out, reaching stakeholders, and incorporating data as a part of communications efforts like including links to data in press releases. We have DMPED and DCPL on board as initial partners to help us create the toolkit while we work with them on their data publishing effort, and we'll be meeting with them in the next few weeks.

Lyndsey Miller-Vierra: How do we spread this across siloed audiences like comms folks, policy folks, etc.? Volunteered to help when the group has something to share.

Next steps:

Jennifer Reed reviewed next steps as mentioned above. Suggests for next agenda adding how to create measurements around making DC a leader in openness, as per the mayor/CA priorities.

We then talked about how we can reach other members of the group. We've been reply-all'ing Jennifer Reed's emails with the most recent meeting agenda.

Robert Becker: Please create a mail list for this group so we can email everyone, since the make-up of the group keeps changing and we don't have a list.

Joshua Tauberer: For our stakeholders outside the group a list they can subscribe to too would be helpful.

Barney Krucoff: We do have ogag@dc.gov which goes to Jenny and Barney. We may be able to use GovDelivery – will check.

Jenny: Members have access to a Google Drive sheet listing email addresses. Will work with Barney.

Meeting adjourned at 5:32pm.