



Web Communications Division (WCD) May Update
design and content consulting . web content management .
google search . watchfire compliance monitor . urchin
metrics . graphics support . Q/A database . cross-
department portal . governance . usability . intranet
support . video hosting . translation . hhs.gov/web
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v.2.n.5

Sec. Leavitt Intros Governance; Challenges 1st Web Conference



Secretary Mike Leavitt opened the first HHS Web Workgroup Conference on an enthusiastic note. "Thanks to the hard work of many in this audience," he said, "I can today announce the institution of formal HHS Web Governance."

The Governance, written by representatives of all Staff and Operating Divisions, is a constitution which sets forth how HHS Web sites are to be managed.

"We have a Vision for our Web," Secretary Leavitt said. "We have Principles for achieving that Vision. And we have a Management Plan for applying those principles."

The Secretary went on to challenge participants:

- o To create consistency across our Department's Web sites;
- o To create a user-focused Web site;
- o To break down our office silos and organize our content by subjects and tasks;
- o To explore creative new ways to better inform people, and
- o To find ways to better utilize the Web to deliver HHS services to the American people.

Application updates

Watchfire: The contract is now due to be let June 1st and implementation should start shortly after that. We continue to provide desk audits on piecemeal basis. (**Watchfire: Julia Sothoron**)

Thanks again for putting this conference on."

Phew! Our first Web Conference is history. PowerPoints did what PowerPoints do, and the Great Hall was noisier than Reagan National, but Secretary Leavitt was pumped (see story, left), the presenters all presented and, best of all, the HHS Web community showed more than 200 strong!

We got good reviews: "Our team really enjoyed it and loved getting to meet other HHS web folks" ... "Please let me know how we can best support these in the future" ... "We are glad to contribute what we can at any time."

And we got suggestions on how to improve:

- More breaks/networking
- No Great Hall
- Shorter presentations
- More hands-on/technical
- Provide coffee

We hear you. And boy do we wish we could provide coffee – we were all set to but were informed its against regs.

We'd love to hear from the rest of you. Our quick survey is on the Web at:
www.hhs.gov/web/workgroupeval.html

Prudence/Dick

508: It's about people

It was, no pun intended, eye opening. Don Barrett of the Dept. of Ed. used his screen reader to let us try to navigate a site that was not 508 accessible, and then navigate the same site with proper 508 coding.

The demonstration put a human face on a law – the Disabilities Act took effect in June 2001 – which is poorly understood and too often ignored.

We are developing boilerplate language requiring 508 compliance for all Web contracts. Meantime, make it your responsibility to require compliance. If the end product is not 508 compliant, it does not get posted.