UFMS eFLASH: October 28, 2004

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1. UFMS Teams Recognized by HHS Executives

On Wednesday, October 20, 2004, the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Budget, Technology and Finance held a Financial Management Day to recognize teams making a difference in the effective Financial Management of the Department. Kerry Weems, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for BTF presented special plaques to teams from CDC, NIH, FDA and the UFMS Program Management Office for their efforts supporting the initial implementation of UFMS. Oracle Corporation and BearingPoint were also given certificates of appreciation for their partnership with HHS in this effort. Speakers congratulated UFMS teams on accomplishments and encouraged work toward additional milestones, including the "Go Lives" at CDC and FDA (see articles below for details). In the words of Scott Whitaker, HHS Chief of Staff, "Thank you for your hard work, dedication and drive…we look forward to final implementation!" For more details and photos from Financial Management Day, look for the December **UFMS Connection**.

2. CDC Celebrates "Go Live" of New Financial System

Aiming to provide better financial service delivery to the entire CDC community, the Agency's Financial Management Office (FMO) launched Phase 1 of the Department's new Unified Financial Management System (UFMS) on October 22, 2004. The new system, being implemented with a phased approach, aligns with the CDC Futures Initiative's business services improvement goals. "This is a very big day at CDC," says Chief Operating Officer Bill Gimson. "Achieving the 'Go Live' date of the first phase of UFMS squares directly with what we're trying to do across the Agency to deploy better systems that allow our health care programs to do their work more efficiently and effectively."

FMO payroll accountant Christina Zierau activates the new UFMS system with AFPS interface as CDC CFO Barbara Harris cuts the celebratory ribbon. Looking on are UFMS project team leaders Dave Moore (far left) and Mike Miller.

"All of us in FMO are tremendously excited that this important date has arrived," states Barbara Harris, CDC's Chief Financial Officer, who oversees the entire UFMS project here. "Many, many great people have dedicated countless hours to make sure that we could deploy the right system at the right time." Harris explains how Centers, Institutes, and Offices (CIOs) have played an essential role via our Steering Committee: "We've worked for literally more than two years – throughout this implementation – with our partners in the Agency's programs to keep them informed and to solicit their opinions and feedback. This is a real example of teamwork."

According to Dave Moore, CDC's UFMS Project Manager, this "Go Live" of the UFMS General Ledger module and AFPS (payroll) system is a significant achievement because it provides assurance to the entire agency that UFMS will function as intended. In Moore's words, "it paves the way for the full UFMS deployment."

Coming this December, UFMS will be enhanced to include a grants solution, which will process grants more efficiently. With the inclusion of grants processing, CDC will process two critical business functions – representing over 55% of its dollars and transactions – in UFMS. Next April, once deployment is complete, the Agency's financial systems will be fully converted to the new Unified Financial Management System. "Our plans for replacement of CDC's outdated financial systems are progressing nicely," says Harris.

3. FDA "Goes Live!"

On October 22, Chief Financial Officer, Jeff Weber also activated Phase I of the Unified Financial Management System for FDA. Helen Horn, Director of the Office of Financial Management, Rick Swanson, BearingPoint Program Manager, and Vicki Frost, BearingPoint FDA Project Manager, were present for the deployment. FDA, like CDC, is beginning the project with the General Ledger module and Accounting for Pay System (AFPS), which only involves users in the Office of Financial Management (OFM).

Earlier that day, FDA staff conducted a planning Go-Away along with some team members from BearingPoint. The focus of the Go-Away was to go through the project plan, key activities and critical milestones for Phase II. Jeff Weber kicked off with inspirational remarks to help the FDA team prepare for Phase II. He sees the team as architects who are responsible for designing and building a financial system that will serve the agency for many years to come. In particular he thanked the leadership team of Helen Horn, Mike Fullem, UFMS Program Director, and Dave Petak and Glenda Conroy, Co-Leads of UFMS at FDA, for the successful implementation. Jeff also gave credit to BearingPoint for their efforts in making UFMS a reality at FDA.

Helen Horn, Director of OFM, CFO Jeff Weber, and Vicki Frost, BearingPoint FDA Project Manager at Go-Live.

At the Go-Away, the UFMS team worked under the banner of "FDA Architects Working Smarter" and focused on understanding key concepts, roles and responsibilities associated with the implementation. These included conversions, testing, reconciliation, training, workforce transition, and "cutover," or transition planning.

OFM will officially celebrate "Go-Live" on October 28th in conjunction with their traditional Halloween Party. Fortunately, no ghosts or goblins have interfered with Phase I; and FDA will be wishing for the same good luck with Phase II.

4. PSC Hosts CRP1 Recognition Ceremony

The PSC hosted an Awards Ceremony on Monday, October 25 in recognition of the hard work and dedication that made the PSC and Customer Agencies CRP1 such a resounding success. Kathy Heuer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Performance and Planning, presented the opening remarks and thanked the audience for their effort. Larry Bedker, Director - Financial Management Service, PSC, the Master of Ceremonies, was then joined by Henry Leach, Federal Site Lead for the PSC, and Ann Speyer, Director of the Office for Business Technology Optimization, in presenting the awards to the recipients. Following the ceremony and rounding out the event was a visit from "The Oracle of Twinbrook" (a.k.a. Henry Leach), and a rousing, competitive game of UFMS Oracle Jeopardy hosted by Larry "Alex Trebek" Bedker.