![UFMS - Unified Financial Management System logo]

UFMS eFLASH: February 18, 2004

In this edition...

1. **Program Critical Issues - The Process**
2. **Yahoo UFMS Press Release**
3. **Introducing the Accounting Treatment Team!**
4. **Ask Professor UFMS: Why Oracle?**
5. **Discussing UFMS Communications with the BPOCs**
6. **The Details of the Mini-CRPs**

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1. Program Critical Issues - The Process

Last December, the first UFMS Schedule Review Summit was held in Rockville with the UFMS Program Management Office, BearingPoint and Federal Leads, IV & V, and CDC and FDA Site Leads. At the Summit, the representatives identified key program issues that needed to be resolved before CRP2 (e.g. CAN realignment and business critical reports decisions). John Gentile, UFMS Program Control Lead, said it was "very successful having a face-to-face meeting, getting all the parties together and having a vetting process." The group then established a process to identify leads for each key issue and created an intense follow-up schedule, including short due dates and twice-weekly stand-up meetings to track progress.

On the Summit meeting and issue follow-up, Gentile said, "This home-grown best practice has been so successful that we are going to do it again." Another Summit is scheduled for February 19-20.

2. Yahoo UFMS Press Release - "BearingPoint Helps HHS Make Significant Progress on New Financial Management System"
(go to http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/040109/dcf022_1.html)

3. Introducing the Accounting Treatment Team!

Nestled in the back of the UFMS Global office in Rockville, MD a small group of OPDIV representatives and BearingPoint staff is huddled around computer workstations. They have been there since February 3 and will stay until March 5, validating approximately 200 budgetary transactions with their associated proprietary transactions in the UFMS Oracle applications. The team is validating the transactions using a copy of the software containing the latest UFMS system configuration. This team of OPDIV representatives and BearingPoint staff is known as the Accounting Treatment Team. In the months leading up to this validation task, the Accounting Treatment Team worked with subject matter experts from the OPDIVs to develop a global set of UFMS budgetary transaction codes, related proprietary account postings and a global naming convention to uniquely identify the transaction codes.

4. Ask Professor UFMS: Why Oracle?

Continuing with the results received from the recent UFMS survey, "Professor UFMS" offers a response.

Q: *Why is HHS using Oracle?*

A: The Oracle U.S. Federal Financials software product will support HHS's business transformation because it is an integrated set of applications that represent a Joint Financial Management Improvement Program (JFMIP) certified commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) core financial package. Oracle U.S. Federal Financials functionality reflects best business practices in financial management (e.g. streamlined reporting capability to reduce or eliminate manual reconciliation processes). More than 350 public sector customers rely on Oracle Financials applications.

Do you have other questions about UFMS? We may have already answered them at http://www.hhs.gov/ufms/faq.html, if not, email us at Mailbox.UFMS@hhs.gov

5. Discussing UFMS Communications with the BPOCs

UFMS Global staff and HHS OPDIV Business Points of Contact (BPOC) met on February 4 to discuss the current status of UFMS communications from a strategic and current needs standpoint. The BPOCs voiced specific concerns and brainstormed with the UFMS team members on ways to best reach the HHS community as UFMS progresses toward each OPDIV's "Go-Live" date. Moving forward, this UFMS Communications Meeting will be held quarterly. Minutes from this meeting are posted on the UFMS Intranet for HHS employees at http://www.hhs.gov/ufms/library/2_4_04_comm_planning_meeting_minutes.pdf

6. The Details of the Mini-CRPs

The nuts and bolts of what was discussed at December's Global Mini-CRPs sessions are now posted on the UFMS Intranet for HHS employees at <http://intranet.hhs.gov/ufms/minicrpsessions.html>

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