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1. Fit/Gap Process Winding Down

The series of fit/gap review workshops held during the past few weeks revealed more specifics about HHS agencies' financial management needs, and engendered a better understanding among workshop participants of what Oracle U.S. Federal Financial software can do. The program team and workshop participants diligently reviewed each global requirement, starting with the "gaps" (the requirements that the software will not support). As the agency representatives and Program Management Office (PMO) staff discussed each requirement in detail, they were able to further clarify certain requirements and exactly what the Oracle software package can and cannot accomplish if it were implemented right "off the shelf." This thorough process, which is resulting in a more comprehensive and reliable fit/gap analysis, would not have been possible without the constructive dialogue between PMO team members and participating agency representatives.

2. Next Steps for UFMS Governance Committees

With the completion of the fit/gap review sessions, the UFMS PMO is targeting April 9 to complete the draft Global Fit/Gap Summary. The Planning and Development Committee will review this document on April 16, and the Steering Committee on April 28.

In addition, the two governance committees will review the Final Baseline Requirements, a document that built off the Initial Baseline Requirements that were first approved by the committees in February. The Final Baseline Requirements document includes additional requirements, which were part of the "Supplemental List of Requirements" reviewed and validated by agency representatives (through their agency requirements coordinators) in early March. Overall, the requirements baseline has benefited from exhaustive review and validation by many agency representatives

3. UCCB Starts Its Critical Role

The UFMS Change Control Board (UCCB) will begin the challenging work of examining the PMO analysis and recommendations for closing the gaps identified in the fit/gap analysis. The UCCB will have the authority to approve remedies that do not increase the UFMS budget, and will make recommendations to the Planning and Development Committee as to whether it should approve solutions for closing "gaps" that would have a budgetary impact.

The UCCB will hold its first meeting later in April. The charter has been posted on the UFMS Intranet at http://intranet.hhs.gov/ufms/changecon.html

4. NIH Advances in Implementing Oracle General Ledger

March was a busy month for the NIH Business and Research Support System (NBRSS) Initiative. A team of representatives from NIH's Office of Financial Management (OFM) and the NBRSS project made significant progress toward the acceptance of the Oracle General Ledger (GL) as the sole GL system for NIH. The Oracle GL module has been running in parallel with NIH's legacy system since October 2002. As NIH prepares to rely fully on Oracle GL, team members are facilitating the transition, including confirming the conversion of legacy system closing balances into Oracle opening balances, and validating the mapping of transaction codes to the Oracle GL. For more information on NBRSS status, visit <http://nbrss.nih.gov/>.

5. Upcoming Events in the UFMS Program

UFMS is hitting the road again this spring. Look for Kerry Weems, Acting Assistant Secretary for Budget, Technology and Finance, and members of the UFMS team at:
- the Indian Health Service on April 22;
- the National Institutes of Health on May 9; and
- the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, at a yet-to-be-determined date.

The UFMS Business Analysis Team will be scheduling individual meetings with representatives from CDC, FDA, PSC and its customers, NIH, and CMS between April 28 and May 16 to obtain information needed to configure UFMS for Conference Room Pilot 1 testing and to finalize the initial global business process designs. (Discussions with CMS will be limited to configuring UFMS for consolidated financial reporting.)