

SSIS Partnership Group

February 22, 2012

Attendees: Gary Sprynczynatyk, Beth Holmgren, W. T. Browne, Jean Swanson-Broberg, Tom Kine, Janelle White, Tom Henderson, Linda Fitzgerald, Michelle Kemper, Craig Sorensen, Abbie Willis, Dave Glesener, Janet Nilsen, Terri Berg, Pam Selvig, and Cheri Ashfeld

Agenda Item	Discussions / Presentations	Handouts
Call to Order	Gary Sprynczynatyk (McLeod) welcomed attendees and initiated introductions. Minutes from the November 2011 meeting were accepted as emailed.	
SSIS Update	Beth Holmgren announced that SSIS's SACWIS compliance is official. Minnesota is one of nine compliant states and, by a <i>slim margin</i> , the second county-administered state. Operational status means that all FFP reimbursement is now at approximately 43%, federal reporting will be less burdensome, and there are fewer spending amounts requiring federal approval.	
<i>Federal Update</i>		
<i>Release Update</i>	Version 12.1 goes statewide the week of February 27. Its main feature is the redesigned Title IV-E Abstract Report which pilot agencies like. V12.1 also adds subprograms for children's waivers and reincorporates some templates from External Templates. Version 12.2 will include redesigned decision tools. MNYTD web application for external grantees to enter independent living services will also be available.	
<i>Server Rollout</i>	The SSIS network team installed 84 replacement servers between early October and the end of December; Ramsey and Hennepin Counties were completed in January. W. T. Browne lauded features such as: latest hardware, upgraded OS to 2008R2, Oracle 11gR2 database upgrade, and backup using removable discs.	
<i>IT Consolidation</i>	The new state IT agency includes 580 DHS IT staff, including all SSIS employees. Our division includes SSIS and .net applications. With SSIS active in several enterprise-wide projects, Beth anticipates more reorganization in the future.	
Enterprise Operations Reorganization	WT Browne's position changed as a result of the legislative move to consolidate IT departments for effectiveness and shared operations. WT is now manager of Network Engineering and Operations Management. However, he will continue a reporting relationship with Beth. His priorities are to utilize resources across the organization and push for virtualization.	
Region 10 Meeting and Feedback	Beth addressed the criticism of documents and plans at a recent Region 10 meeting. SSIS responded with a Q & A document that is on CountyLink at SSIS>Support>Release Notes> Q&A . While SSIS is working on mitigating the problems, Beth assured members that quality assurance is always a high priority. She summarized the federal and technical requirements that led to completely redesigning document templates.	

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<p>Plans and Documents</p>	<p>Jean Swanson Broberg described work done by a group of DHS, SSIS and county workers to simplify service plans and make changes since the V11.3 release. The handout screenshot shows tree navigation and screen tabs designed for clear plan completion. Additional federal and state requirements will be added before Version 12.2. IFCSP will be the next project.</p> <p>Tom Kine addressed the assertion that quality control was inadequate in Version 11.3. He walked members through SSIS's QA process that involves hands-on testing, automated and regression testing, performance testing on 16 test servers, the huddle process, code reviews and problem reports.</p> <p><i>What happened?</i> Behind the scenes, SSIS upgraded its nine-year-old Delphi development tool, leaping ahead numerous Delphi versions and encountering severe complications adapting old code and database access to new technology. Early contractors' custom code had to be eliminated. Supporting products from 13 component vendors had to be consolidated and unified. SSIS now uses two component vendors and has 30% less architecture, a level the staff can maintain, upgrade, and uniformly control. Tom described all this (invisible) work as baggage elimination for the future.</p> <p><i>How to fix?</i> He has approval to purchase the Developer Express document editor and a PDF viewer that will be embedded in the application and not require programming. This will be important since the variety of Internet Explorer and Adobe versions in agencies is difficult to duplicate during SSIS testing. These new tools will be implemented in case notes and time notes in Version 12.2. The editor will eventually be used in documents and text areas of service plans.</p> <p>Partnership members asked about pasting images into SSIS, scanning capability and/or interfacing to off-the-shelf systems. Tom is working on a function where he can see that something is an image, control it, store it, etc. County members suggested partnering to pay for an EDMS interface solution.</p> <p><i>How to avoid this in the future?</i> The quarterly release cycle ensures that SSIS versions are on time, as predicted. The focus is on bug fixes and small enhancements. Because significant new development follows a separate track and is integrated into the quarterly release when finished, new functionality no longer dictates the release schedule, size or impact.</p>	<p>Screenshots: Service Plans and Document Editor</p>

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<p>SSIS Fiscal Update</p>	<p>Beth Holmgren reported on behalf of Kate Stolpman:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Version 12.1 includes the redesigned Title IV-E Abstract Report. Training sessions are available for registration on TrainLink. • Janel Heath (Anoka) is on board as the new Fiscal trainer. • Claiming interface/5010 is delayed due to structural problems. SSIS turned on groups of 13-15 counties at a time. Forty counties have submitted batches. <i>(Update: As of 2/24/12, all counties are now enabled.)</i> • Counties' request (SBAR) to form a group of counties and MCOs to standardize the claiming elements has been drafted. The Fiscal Advisory Committee will review it before it goes to Administrative Uniformity Committee (AUC). • IFSpi: Over half of the counties are converted. 	
<p>DHS System Modernization</p>	<p>Beth Holmgren noted that healthcare reform and Health Insurance Exchange projects provide opportunities for generous federal funding (90%) that can be used for system modernization. DHS has submitted an APD for \$7 million for system modernization and has an RFP out to secure a planner. Healthcare eligibility is the first priority. DHS is looking for a vendor who has service-oriented architecture supporting these modules.</p>	
<p>Technology Committee Update</p>	<p>Abbie Willis (Olmsted) reported that Ann Sessoms of OET@DHS updated committee members. The committee fine-tuned its MACSSA policy on the Integrated Service Delivery Framework. <i>(Update: The MACSSA Tech Committee has now approved the policy and renamed it "A MACSSA Technology Vision: Outcomes Advanced Through Technology.")</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 28 10:30 a.m.-noon</p>	