



Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

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MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
Through: Diane Barrans, Executive Director
From: Kerry Thomas, Internal Auditor
Date: July 11, 2014
Subject: Internal Auditor/ANSWERS Update

Over the past quarter, my focus and the majority of my time continues to be ANSWERS project-related while internal audit activities are ongoing at a minimum level.

ANSWERS Project Updates

The ANSWERS project is in full swing with the design and development work progressing on schedule, the data reporting outcome commencement, and ongoing sustainability planning activities.

We are now five months into the development work with contractor GeoNorth, LLC, and the design and prototype for security, matching, validation and preprocessing are nearing completion and initial testing is underway. Over the next quarter the data dictionary, staging, and data promotion process will be incorporated in the prototype. Full system testing is planned for early fall. The contract is on schedule for completion in March 2015.

The data reporting outcome kickoff meeting occurred in June 2014 and the multi-agency project team and contracted subject matter experts met in Juneau to identify and develop strategies to complete the related scope of work including identification of public reports, development of the public portal, and establishing a researcher access model. The data reporting grant outcome is occurring concurrently to system development work, and concludes in June 2015.

Sustainability planning is ongoing, and the program management office (PMO) plan is being implemented, including the development of workstations in ACPE's Juneau offices, creation of staff positions through reclassification of available positions, and a current recruitment for a

programmer/data analyst. Over the next quarter, the full sustainability plan addresses post-grant funding, PMO staffing and administration plans, and post-implementation expansion plans.

The grant project is scheduled to conclude in June 2015, and the project team anticipates all project outcomes will be implemented on schedule given the momentum and progress made over the first two years of the grant.

Please visit the ANSWERS website at acpe.alaska.gov/ANSWERS for project updates and program information.

Process Analysis Systems

The process analysis systems (PAS) team is in the final stages of reviewing the customer service correspondence processes and developing recommendations for management. The PAS team continues to refine its methods and processes for: 1) identifying and prioritizing areas and activities warranting organizational reviews; 2) determining team composition; and, 3) identifying overall team goals and objectives relative to providing maximum benefit to the organization. This work will inform future projects undertaken by the PAS team and is expected to be completed over the next quarter.

I hope you find this information of interest and look forward to seeing you in Anchorage at the July meeting.