Project Startup Report

Project Name: Program Reporting System (PRS)

Agency: Department of Health (DoH)

Business Unit/Program Area: Tobacco

Project Sponsor: Lonny Mertz

Project Manager: Brandi Fagerland, ITD PMO

Project Description
In 2006, ND DoH commissioned Nexus to create a grants management application and program reporting system (PRS) for use by EPR and the Tobacco Prevention Unit. The system was developed to meet a specific need but also designed in a manner that would allow flexible utilization by other DoH units. Due to the tight time and budget constraints of the project, the application was built in a rapid development environment to support the minimum set of requirements for initial deployment. The goal was to see this application utilized by more departments but it was unknown if others would adopt it for their use. This goal has been reached and multiple departments in DoH are utilizing the PRS with more planning to be added in the near future.

Business Needs and Problems
Over the past several years, it has become clear that this application can be successfully utilized by multiple units in DoH. Due to that success, it is clear that the application must be "industrialized" for heavier use in the department and to ensure stability and reliability. Nexus has been asked to upgrade, enhance the architecture to support the PRS as an enterprise solution and add enhanced automated unit testing to the PRS. In addition, DoH has asked for additional feature sets to be included in this project. The solution is a rewrite of the PRS application with the enhancements that have been requested by DoH staff input from the field users.

Key Metrics		
Project Start Date	**Project End Date**	**Original Baseline Budget**
03/04/2011	06/30/2011	$289,100

Objectives	
Project Objectives	**Measurement Description**
Enable automated testing of the applications code to 60-65% coverage.	At project closeout, Nexus will provide the DoH with a report that describes the attained level of coverage. The report will be reviewed by DoH at project closeout to ensure 60-65% coverage.
The PRS application is currently written in Visual Basic. The objective of this project is to rewrite the application in .NET and C#. This will better enable future additions or modifications to the application and, therefore, allow the use of the application to expand.	A review of the planned architecture will be conducted with ITD for verification and validation. ITD will be asked to provide an assessment after the review.
Give the application users the ability to delete application objects (i.e., programs, grants, budgets, reimbursements, and progress reports).	During user acceptance testing (UAT), the DoH will validate that this functionality has been provided and is functioning as expected. UAT will not be signed off until the functionality is verified.
Enhancement of application security. Contractor security will not change, however, DoH internal security will be enhanced to provide program level security as well as read-only, add, edit and delete specific security.	During user acceptance testing (UAT), the DoH will validate that this functionality has been provided and is functioning as expected. UAT will not be signed off until the functionality is verified.

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Cost/Benefit Analysis
Anticipated Benefit(s): Adding unit testing will aid in any additions or modifications to the PRS applications. Testing will make sure that if any additions or modifications to the application do affect other areas of the application that those additions or modifications do not disrupt the production application. Anticipated Benefit(s): Re-writing the PRS application will upgrade and enhance the architecture to support the PRS as an enterprise solution. Anticipated Benefit(s): Giving users the ability to delete application objects will eliminate data inaccuracies currently experienced with "orphan data." Anticipated Benefit(s): Enhancement of application security will provide more granular and thereby, more secure management of the application for each DoH division utilizing the application.

Key Constraints or Risks

Risks of Performing the Project:

    Risk: Tight time frame increases risk of failure.

        Impact: All new feature requests would not be included in final product.

        Mitigation: Tight control over scope to prevent scope creep.

    Risk: Flooding in North Dakota impacting DoH staff.

        Impact: Project delays.

        Mitigation: Have alternative DoH staff assigned to serve as backup to those staff most directly affected by flooding.

Risks of not performing the Project:

1. Lack of:

   - Scalability

   - Reliability

2. Future work would be more expensive due to lack of automated unit tests in current application.

3. Data problems will continue due to not being able to delete "orphan data."