**June 2012 COGR Meeting Thursday Morning Costing Presentation - Paulson**

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# Managing a Federal Labyrinth
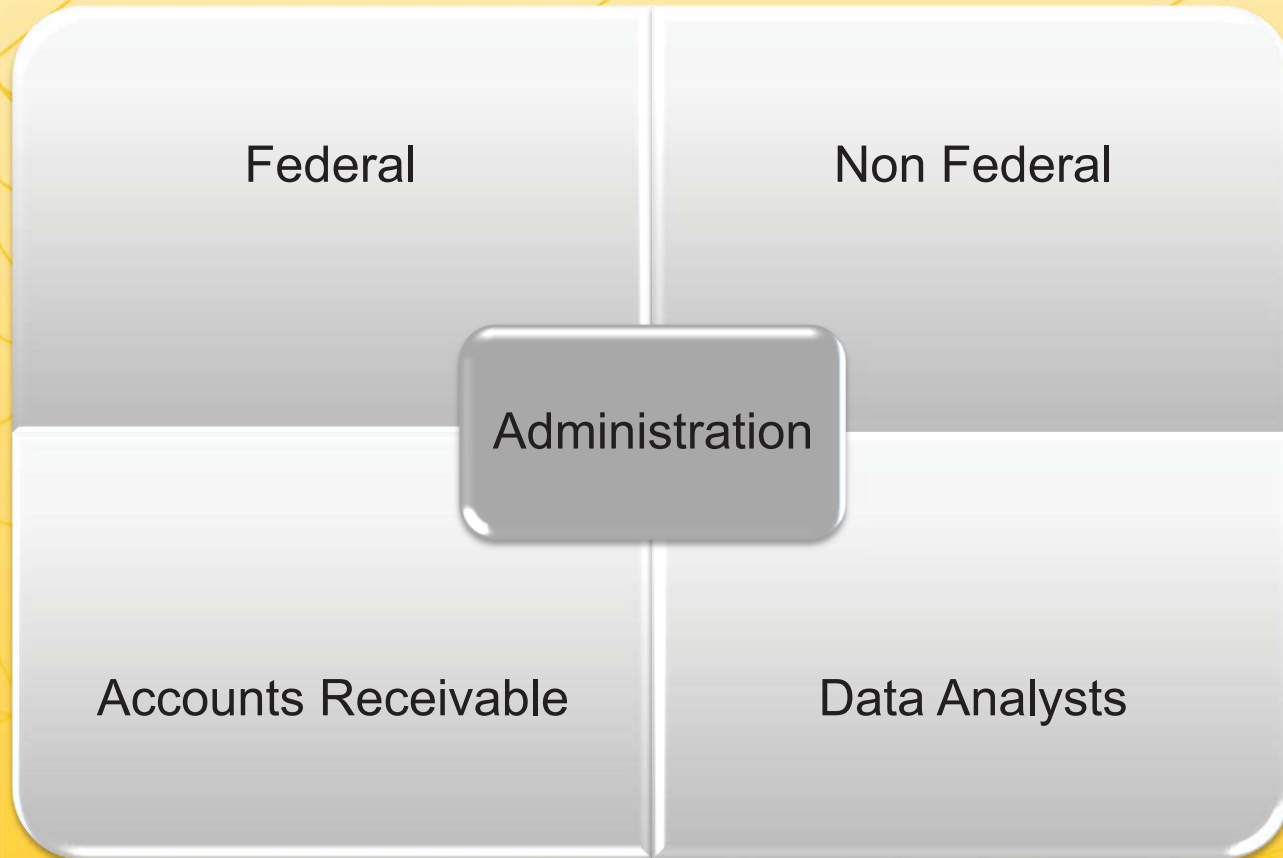
## Council on Government Relations
## June 7, 2012
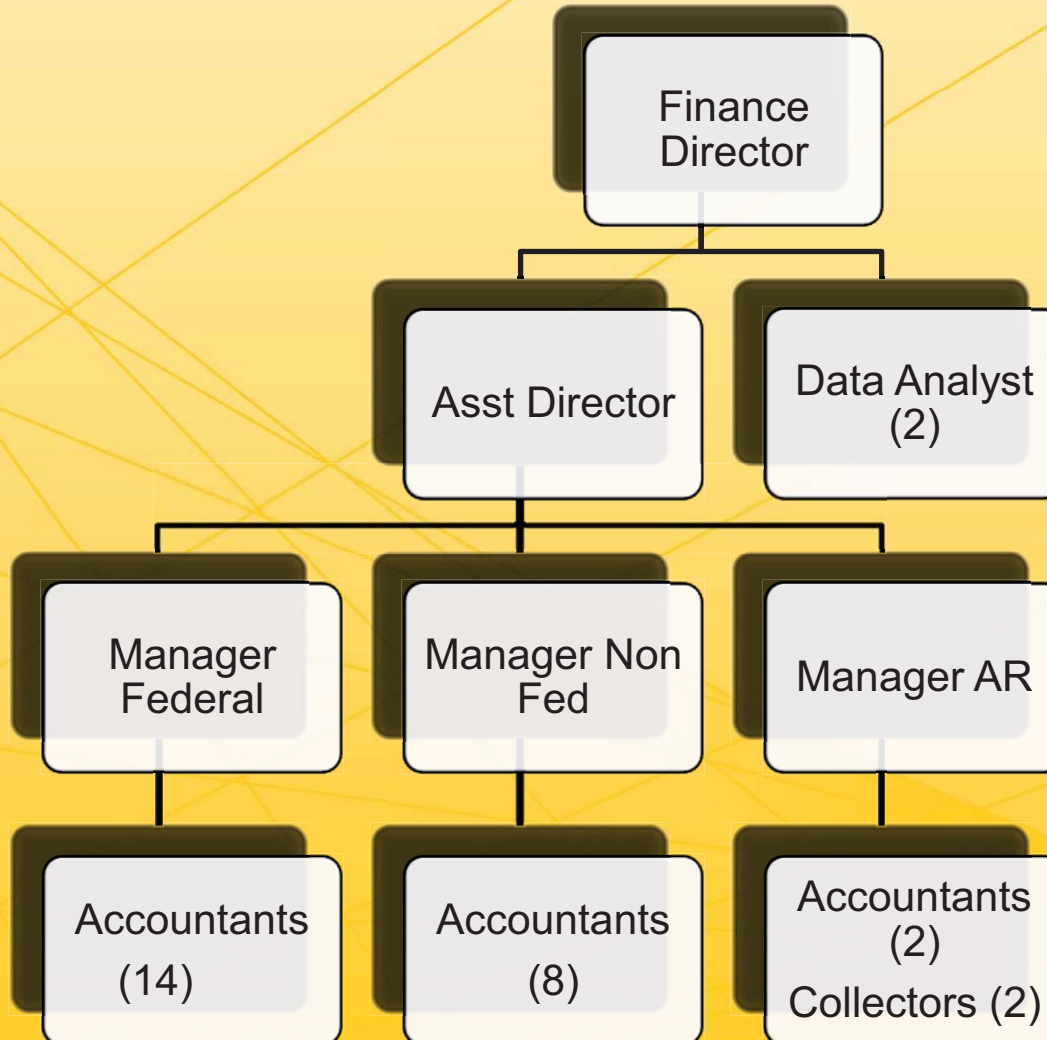
Sue Paulson
Finance Director
Sponsored Financial Reporting

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# Organizational Structure

Federal

Non Federal

Administration

Accounts Receivable

Data Analysts

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# Organizational Structure

# Roles & Responsibilities

**Federal Team**

- Financial reporting – includes sub-awards

- Financial invoicing – non DHHS & NSF LOC, paper, PDF or upload – includes sub-awards

- Evaluate expenses for allowability, allocability and reasonableness

- Institutional reporting – Quarterly FFR, ARRA, etc.

**Accounts Receivable Team**

- Apply payments

- Initiate LOC draws

- Collections

- Financial system closeout

- Reconcile balance sheet accounts

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# Library of Federal Systems

**Draw System**

- ASAP – 10 agencies
- PMS – 7 agencies
- GPRS -DOJ
- Fastlane - NSF
- G5 – USDE
- PayWeb – Navy, Army
- HUD – phone

Responsibility - AR area

**Invoice System**

- WAWF – Airforce
- STGMS – NASA Space Telescope
- OB10 – VA
- VIPERS – DOE
- DOT – coming soon!!

Responsibility – Federal area

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# System Experts

- Nuances within agencies that use systems
  - Some agencies allow debits & credits
- Nuances with each system forces system experts
  - Some systems allow debits & credits
  - Sub-awards number not the award number in system
  - Tie access to draw funds to submission of financial report
  - User changes password in reporting system forces a different user to change their password in the draw system.

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# Library of Federal Systems

**Financial Report**

- Research.gov - NSF
- The Commons – NIH
- GMS – DOJ
- HRSA Handbook – HRSA
- ePIC – US DOE ARPA
- eGrants – Corp for Nat'l Community Service
- STGMS – NASA Space
- OLDC – DHHS NCH
- PMC – US DOE EERE

**Financial Report**

- PMS – DHHS, NASA, USDA (NIFA, FS, FNS, ARS), Corp of Nat'l Community Service, DHS, IRS, Dept of State
- FederalReporting.gov – ARRA reports

# Problematic

- Reporting practices, expectations, and/or systems are the most problematic?
  - DOJ – PI needs to provide system access to accountant to file the financial report
  - HUD – telephone, requires 60-90 day recertification
  - 90 Days after the award end date the award is removed from the system

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# Better

- Reporting practices, expectations, and/or systems are the best?
  - Specific functionality out of systems
    - Spreadsheet upload
    - Reporting out of PMS

# Library of Federal Reporting

**Financial Report**

- FFATA
- Quarterly ARRA Report
- Quarterly Federal Financial Report - 425 by Agency
- Federal Financial Report – 425 award specific

**Data Elements**

- 136 unique data elements
- 83 reported once
- 53 more than once
- 13 federal identifiers

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# Minnesota's approach to ARRA

- Presidential committee formed to create structure
- Sub-set group formed to define reporting parameters and create business process
  - Central delivered process
  - Pre-populate as much as possible minimizing Principle Investigator (PI) burden
  - Survey requested  PI to review & validate data and update progress (survey tool)
  - Financial data pulled via series of queries into an Access Database
  - Series of data validation steps conducted and financial data merged with PI Survey data
  - Data ready for transposition into the ARRA excel workbooks

# ARRA Reporting

- Data transposition into Excel
  - Data merged from master excel document to award specific excel document
    - Additional burden as many sub-awards have their "own" form
  - Award specific data re-validated at time of input into Excel
  - Excel workbook uploaded into Federalreporting.gov
  - Various oversight checks performed to ensure all ARRA awards reported
  - 1 Data Analyst, 6 Accountants



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# Extrapolation

- Assumptions
  - All federal accountants
  - No major decrease in awards (except decline in ARRA awards)
  - No organizational changes
  - 20% increase in reporting efficiency*

*20% increased efficiency = $300,000-$500,000

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# Extrapolation

- Need
  - 14 FTEs ~ $966,254**
  - 12,540 more reports annually
  - 664,620 duplicative reporting elements annually
- Gap
  - Federal sub-awards
  - Dependant on how we pass the additional reporting down to each other

** Includes Salary, Fringe, Work space setup, does not include cost of space or ongoing maintenance of reporting solution

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# Federal Staff Morale

- "Transparency burnout"
  - Thought the ARRA level of reporting was temporary
  - Fear of same level of stress
  - No pay raises for the last three years
  - Real and potential loss of talent and expertise
  - Leadership struggling with how to create positive spin on DATA Act or other additional reporting requirements

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# Demonstrating Burden

- Continue these discussions
- Show and tell the story
  - Quantify