

Inter-Agency Workgroup



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Chief Financial Officer



Meeting Name:	Inter-Agency Workgroup – Chart of Accounts Q & A
Date:	February 09, 2006
Time:	1:30—3:30 PM
Location:	Betty Easley Center, Rm 148
Requestor:	Project Aspire

The following is a synopsis of questions and answers discussed at the Aspire IWG meeting on February 9, 2006 relating to the Aspire Chart of Accounts (COA).

Questions in Blue were updated subsequent to the meeting.

Q: What's going to happen to the GAAFR ID?

All of FundCC will roll up into a tree for the GAAFR fund.

Q: What if we have a Fund ID with a different GAAFR fund?

There will be only one GAAFR fund per fund code. It is a one-to-one relationship. If a fund code repeats, but needs a different GAAFR fund, you would have two fund codes in Aspire.

Q: GL codes are tied to GAAFR fund. How do we handle that?

There are no values and no codes yet. They might share the same codes, or a range of values. But there are no specific values or codes yet. It is planned that the different GAAFR funds will be captured using account/alt account values that distinguish between the GAAFR fund associated with a transaction in Aspire.

Q: When can we anticipate seeing the values in the fields?

The "Value" question is in the Project Plan for action some time in the March-April time frame. We have to look at the unique string of 29 digits that are in FLAIR and figure out how to uncouple that and map it to each of the fields within the Chart of Accounts (COA). By using this mapping, we are going to take all of the State Standard GL codes that are starting with a 1 and having two trailing digits of "xx",

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and up to 5 with two trailing digits of “xx.” So any GL code that starts with a 5xx down to a 1xx is a balance sheet account. Balance sheet alternate accounts would be agency specific and it’s the digits after the first three. So if you look at your GLCs – 1xx State Standard xx – everything after that should be unique to your agency somehow.

Q: Will codes for Operating and Fixed Capital Outlay be in the Aspire COA twice?

Yes. If it is a state wide standard account, and can be either in FCO or Current Expenditures, it has got to be there twice. The actual code and how it is tracked is different.

Q: Does that duplicate Projects, if all FCO is accounted for in Projects?

No.

Q: Who is responsible for tree maintenance on the Alt Account?

At an Account level, the Department of Financial Services (DFS) owns tree maintenance. That’s why we must have the sum total of what this list is, so we can input ranges that are flexible enough for us to design trees. Therefore, if things change, we don’t have to touch the tree every time. We want to get as close to “non-impact” change as we can.

Q: On the new Chart of Accounts spider diagram: the footnote at bottom says “Aspire field label” – Fields such as Fund CC, Account, Alt Account, Organization, Approp Year, Location, and Activity Issue – the display fields are going to be reduced across the board on all the screens. Will these be reduced so that agencies can have flexibility to add more values as they grow?

Aspire will not have the flexibility to add digits. Each fields display length provides ample flexibility if re-numbering is completed and the tenet of not “smart coding” is strictly adhered to. Organization code will provide for ample flexibility given it’s current length of seven. That length provides for 9,999,999 unique organizational codes.

Q: So to alter the screen display that would be in the purview of the State?

Absolutely. PeopleSoft delivered functionality includes names that do not mean much to agencies. When we gather agency requirements, we have to put PeopleSoft into

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language agencies can understand. Chartfield Configurator would change the width of that display with minimal impact. However as of design freeze, these changes have been determined from a functional perspective.

Q: Organization is going from 10 to 7. How does this effect file layouts, and how are we going to get our information out of EPM? When you increase (the display from 7 to 8, will agencies put a 0 in? What are we going to do with the extra digit?

At this juncture, it has been determined that the “display length” is the total length that will be stored in the database as determined by the establishment of project environments and the running of Chartfield Configurator. As a result, file layouts that were published under the original COA design will have to be re-worked to conform to the new design.

Q: What is the anticipated participation through the Advocates for determining what these values and what the methodology should be?

As we develop the tool, determining those values is critical. Once we’ve got the entire list and you’ve participated in the process agency by agency, it is incumbent on the Project to give you a couple of options on how it can number things. The details for how agencies will give input are being developed. However, it is not going to happen in a vacuum. We fully anticipate agency involvement in this process. Please remember that it will be necessary to leverage the available number of digits without “smart coding”.

Q: When do you anticipate having the tool available?

The tool is scheduled to be ready March 8th. It’s a database. Each agency will receive a log-in and need to go through the tool in a structured manner to determine what is okay and what is not, and collaborate with the Project to determine resolutions.

Q: How will the timeline for determining the values affect other work streams in the Project with regard to business remediation, EPM and Reporting?

The tool is being developed predicated on the Project plan. We’ll react as fast as we can. I don’t think we’re causing any delay.