WDTIP Bulletin

Date: December 8,1999

Project Updates

The Welfare Data Tracking Implementation Project (WDTIP) Application Team has been working to complete online and batch coding and unit testing by December 17. This deliverable is ahead of schedule by approximately 4 weeks. Currently, code and unit testing have been completed for the vast majority of programs that support the online components of the WDTIP system. Many of the batch programs have also been coded and are being unit tested. Integration/system testing will be started in January, after code and unit testing have been completed. The Application and Implementation Teams are coordinating plans for User Acceptance Testing (UAT) and expect to start UAT in March.

In addition, the Application Team hosted a Question & Answer Session to discuss the WDTIP External Developer's Guide (EDG) on November 17 in Sacramento. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a forum for county and consortia representatives to address questions generated after their review of the EDG. The meeting minutes provide an overview of the meeting, outline resolution to some of the questions and issues presented, provide a list of items the WDTIP Application Team agreed to follow up on, and lists the attendees. Please reference the WDTIP website (**www.wdtip.cahwnet.gov**) *Library* section for the minutes, or call our toll free number **(877) 365-7378** to request a copy.

The WDTIP Implementation Team has finished conducting the Regional Meetings. Information regarding the project history, data conversion approach, system functionality, training strategy, communication approach and Help Desk strategy were shared with county representatives. During these meetings, many questions, issues and design requests were posed to the Implementation Team. The issues were logged into the WDTIP issues database for resolution and the design requests were submitted to the Change Control Board. The questions and their corresponding answers are provided in the *System Updates* section of this bulletin. The issues, design requests and resolutions will be presented in the January issue of the *WDTIP Bulletin.*

Project Updates (continued)

In addition to the wrap up of the Regional Meetings, the Implementation Team is finalizing the *Implementation Plan*. This deliverable outlines the plans for WDTIP stakeholder communications, data conversion, system rollout, training, change leadership, Help Desk and change requests.

System Updates

SIS and SCI Availability (12/31/99 – 1/1/00)

As part of the prudent planning effort being done by the State for the Y2K transition, certain statewide online systems, including the SAWS Information System (SIS), MEDS, and the Statewide Client Index (SCI) will not be operational on Friday, December 31, after 5 p.m.

After the systems have been shut down, staff will be taking preventative measures to minimize the risks of any potential Y2K problems. This includes making backups of data residing in critical files, tables, and databases as well as making last minute checks for Y2K bugs.

SIS, MEDS, and SCI will be available again on Saturday, January 1, at 4 a.m. for production and at 7 a.m. for the testing and training environments. If no problems are encountered, these statewide systems will operate following their regular schedules. We will continue to keep you informed on this issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the WDTIP Help Desk at **(877) 365-7378**.

Regional & Stakeholder Meeting Questions and Answers

Following is a list of questions asked by county participants during the WDTIP Regional Meetings. The WDTIP Implementation and Application Teams provided input for the answers to these questions.

Q: Will the WDTIP use MEDS TAO for statewide county communications?
A: At this point in time, WDTIP will continue to utilize the standard communication methods that have been outlined in the WDTIP Updated Stakeholder Communication Plan. These include email, the WDTIP website, the monthly Help Desk Bulletin, the quarterly WDTIP Update as well as phone, fax and mail when necessary.

Q: How will rejected transactions be sent to counties: through MEDS? through county or consortia systems?
A: *Rejected transactions will be sent via an electronic file to counties through their consortia or local county systems.*

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Regional & Stakeholder Meeting Questions and Answers (continued)

Q: What are response time goals for the WDTIP Help Desk?
A: *The WDTIP Help Desk Plan is currently being developed. Help Desk response times are being discussed with project management, and will be published when the Help Desk Plan is approved.*

Q: Can the counties access the WDTIP website from the ISAWS Intranet?
A: *Currently, counties need internet access to access the WDTIP website, but the WDTIP is looking into possible solutions.*

Q: Will the mapping of the function keys for the WDTIP system on MEDS terminals be the same as on a standard PC?
A: *Yes, counties accessing WDTIP through a MEDS terminal will use the same function keys as those counties accessing MEDS through a PC terminal emulation.*

Q: When will counties use the update screens?
A: *Counties will only use the update screens when they cannot send the appropriate information through the standard file process that will provide updates to the WDTIP system. This occurs if the county does not track the required information in their eligibility system.*

Q: Where (in the WDTIP system) are childcare payments included?
A: *Childcare payments will be entered on the Supportive Services Only screen if the individual receives childcare benefits but no cash aid payment in the corresponding month. Supportive Services Only (childcare, transportation and ancillary) payments are considered "assistance" for TANF time-clock purposes when the individual who is receiving the assistance is not employed.*

Q: How will information received in the batch process be corrected and/or updated?
A: *Any information that is sent to the WDTIP system via a county/consortia system must be updated or corrected through that county/consortia system. The county/consortia system would need to be modified first, with the information then being passed to the WDTIP system through the daily batch file process.*

Q: What is the definition of a "converted" county?
A: *A county is considered to be converted to the WDTIP system when the WDTIP system is receiving daily data files from the county and that county's data is no longer being updated utilizing the extract file from MEDS.*

Regional & Stakeholder Meeting Questions and Answers (continued)

Q: Will report files be sent to counties that have not yet converted to the WDTIP system?

A: *Electronic report files will be sent to all counties regardless of their conversion status.*

Q: Will an individual be included on the Exceeding Clocks Report if they have an extension?

A: *Yes. All individuals who have exceeded their initial time-clock will be reported on the Exceeding Clocks Report.*

Q: Will any of the report information contain data from MEDS?

A: *Some of the reported clock data may be derived from the MEDS extract file, depending on whether the county in which the individual has been active has converted to the WDTIP system. Another factor could be whether a county is able to send data on an individual dating back to the initialization of their specific time clocks.*

Q: Can counties do online updates prior to converting their data?

A: *All counties will have access to the WDTIP system on the day the system "goes live." If counties have the capability, they may do online updates prior to converting their data to the WDTIP system, as it will be populated with data from the MEDS extract file until conversion occurs in their county.*

Communications

WDTIP Contact Information

The WDTIP website address is **www.wdtip.cahwnet.gov** and is updated monthly. If you prefer to contact our office by phone, we are available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The WDTIP toll-free number is **(877) 365-7378**. Our fax number is (916) 229-4487. WDTIP staff phone numbers and e-mail addresses are posted on the WDTIP website in the *Contact* section.

Other

If you have ideas for functional items you would like to see included in the monthly WDTIP Bulletin, please contact Jenniefer Speak at (916) 229-4470 or by e-mail at jspeak@hwdcsaws.cahwnet.gov.