



NEWSLETTER

ERP Program Update

Volume 2, November 13, 2015

This newsletter provides regular PMO updates regarding the Statewide ERP program. These updates will also be posted on the ERP website.

Help formally name the ERP program!

It's official! The ERP program is underway, and many of you are already engaged in helping identify the future-state ERP solution design and legacy assessment requirements. While these efforts are critical to a successful implementation, we also want to ensure the program embodies our collective values and vision for the State.



As such, we want a program name to make this system our own. This will be something that people will immediately identify as belonging to the Statewide ERP.

Please be original and creative! Ideally, this program will be a one-word letter or acronym.

Submit as many entries as you would like to Statewide.ERP@illinois.gov. Include in the subject 'ERP Program Naming Contest'. If your name is selected you will be profiled in the next ERP newsletter!

Life after CRPs

Over the past two months, over 40 mini-CRPs and 20 CRP sessions have been completed in order to help identify requirements and demonstrate proposed future-state workflows. These sessions have been attended by representatives from pilot and blueprint agencies. Since the CRP sessions are nearly completed, we wanted to provide an update on future ongoing activities.

What is a business process design document (BPD)? It defines State business processes and provides an ERP configuration to process crosswalk to ensure that all critical requirements are captured and addressed.

Included in each BPD are business process diagrams, transaction code mappings, external system integration points, and RICEFW requirements, which are required deviations from the default configuration.

Post-CRP Action Items

- CRP Meeting Minutes are posted on ERP website
- Targeted meetings are conducted for select stakeholders to resolve outstanding CRP follow ups
- Creation of detailed business process design document (BPD)
- BPD is reviewed by State SME leads and designated agency SMEs to collect feedback

These BPDs will follow a formal approval process to ensure that designated State resources and all system integrators review the proposed solution. This is the first of several review documents that will be created to outline the future-state ERP design.

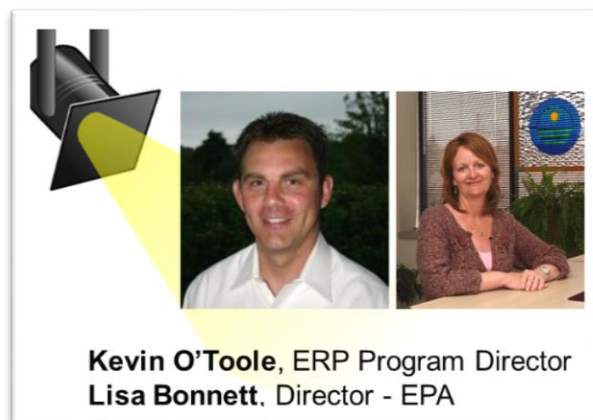


ERP Spotlight

We recently sat down with Kevin O'Toole, ERP program director and Lisa Bonnett, EPA Director, to learn more about their thoughts concerning ERP program vision, progress, and expectations for the future.

❖ *How have you been involved with the ERP program so far?*

Lisa: During my 30+ years of serving in various accounting and Chief Financial Officer positions in state government, it has become clear to me that Illinois will save significant costs by changing our cumbersome business processes, and that utilizing a modern ERP system will provide consistent, real-time data across state government. As Director, I am pleased to be a member of the ERP steering committee so that I can continue to champion this initiative and possibly share real world examples with my peers on how this system will benefit Illinois.



❖ *How will your agency be affected by the ERP program, and what is the overall agency pulse?*

Lisa: The Illinois EPA is a pilot agency, and we are anxious to begin implementation of the financial modules. The Illinois EPA is funded solely with federal and fee funds; we receive no General Revenue funds. Managing our receivables and expenditures in real-time is impossible with our current financial systems. For the first time, ERP will allow us to have a double entry accounting system, a true general ledger, where cash receipts will be posted to receivables on a real-time basis, and it will allow us to do project-based accounting for grants and cost recovery activities.

❖ *Why do you feel that now is the right time to implement ERP?*

Kevin: We have identified a preliminary list of over 400 disparate IT solutions that have overlapping functionality. These redundant systems are costly to maintain and have minimal interfacing abilities. This lack of communication exposes the State to data integrity issues due to manual data entry requirements. It is imperative that we rectify these problems and move the State forward by adopting a cutting-edge integrated solution to meet our complex requirements.

Lisa: Now more than ever, the State needs accurate, consistent, and real-time data to manage our scarce resources. The State must have confidence in our financial systems and data in order to make timely decisions and be able to adjust to change economic and programmatic needs.

❖ *What are the major benefits that the State will likely attain as a result of moving to an integrated ERP program?*

Kevin: The ERP program will allow us to drastically improve the efficiency of administrative and citizen services while making real-time information available to all agencies in order to facilitate collaboration and swift decision-making. In addition, the ERP program will enable the state to deliver financial statements in a timely manner and successfully meet all Auditor General requirements. While these are some key overarching benefits, it is important to note that each stakeholder will identify individual ERP

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Program



benefits that will help them more productively complete their day-to-day work and minimize redundant manual data entry.

Lisa: A major benefit of the ERP program will be a consistent process and data across State government that can be efficiently shared and reported on as required by a multitude of statutes.

❖ ***What are your favorite Springfield restaurants?***

Lisa: Currently, My favorite restaurant is AZ-T-CA Mexican Grill, a local small business that serves the best enchiladas made from fresh ingredients. You will see me there at least once a week!

Kevin: I recently discovered a barbeque joint called Smokey Bones with great ribs and pulled pork. I try to make it there at least once a week.

❖ ***What are some challenges you expect to encounter and how can the State overcome them?***

Kevin: ERP implementations are a massive undertaking and will require a tremendous effort from all stakeholders to make this successful. We cannot view this ERP program as a standalone IT project; it is a business process project that is enabled by an IT platform. We will need all stakeholders to work with us to document and pressure-test agency workflows and reporting requirements. Most importantly, always approach sessions and issues with a growth mindset by envisioning a streamlined future-state rather than attempting to replicate current-state.

Lisa: As a pilot agency, our accounting staff resources are currently spread very thin as we participate in preparing for the new system and continue to keep up on the day-to-day work. With Carol Radwine's leadership, her team stays focused on the benefits of the new system and the improvements that will come to their individual jobs.

Thank you to both Kevin and Lisa for participating in our interview, AND remember to check the website frequently. We are continually updating it with information and schedule updates.

Please visit the website and distribute the following link to your agencies: [ERP Website](#)

Thank you for your continued support and hard work throughout this ERP process.
Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions!

The Statewide PMO Team