

MEMORANDUM

INFORMATION MEMO # 13-05

TO: District Health Directors
District Administrators
District Program Directors
District Nutrition Services Directors
District MIS Directors

FROM: Brenda Fitzgerald, MD
Commissioner
Department of Public Health



DATE: April 10, 2013

RE: Voucher Management and Reporting System (VMARS)

This memorandum is to provide an update to district staff on the Voucher Management and Reporting Systems (VMARS). This project was submitted to USDA and received approval to move forward. Information pertaining to VMARS is listed below:

What is VMARS?

VMARS is a voucher management and reporting system that manages WIC data and voucher printing. This system is web based and will accept front-end system WIC data. In addition, VMARS will validate and securely communicate WIC data in real time to CSC.

Why was the VMARS system chosen for the Women Infants and Children (WIC) Program?

VMARS was chosen as a short term solution to WIC's computer needs until a statewide system is purchased. VMARS is also a solution to answering a number of corrective actions the WIC Program received from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) during the recent Management Evaluation (ME).

Was VMARS approved by USDA?

VMARS was approved by the USDA in an effort to help eliminate a number of corrective actions (from the state) until a statewide computer system is purchased. VMARS was also chosen in an effort to eliminate fraud.

When will VMARS be implemented?

VMARS will be implemented on September 26, 2013 statewide. CSC staff has assured a smooth transition of this system. The short timeline of this project is set because the WIC contract with CSC expires on September 30, 2013.



What is the status of VMARS to date?

- A meeting was held with CSC and front-end developers on the week of January 14, 2013. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss technical specifications required for VMARS. The responses from the developers were favorable. A follow up meeting was held with several MIS Directors and District Health Directors. As a result, additional changes to VMARS were identified.
- The State WIC office has contracted with CSC to purchase a server that will validate all participant and voucher data.
- A "Hello World" test was sent to the FES based on the original configuration. Now that we are using a web service, the "Hello World" test is no longer valid.

Who is responsible for the cost of VMARS and the enhancements?

USDA approved Georgia contracting with CSC to implement the VMARS system. Therefore, the state paid for the system itself.

Below is the Project Timeline for VMARS:

Task	Start	Finish	Status
Project Initiation		12/10/12	Completed
Project Definition Approval	1/18/13	1/18/13	Completed
Technical Spec Approved (API)	1/18/13	1/18/13	Completed
Analysis (CSC)	1/21/13	4/15/13	In Progress
Beta 1 – VMARS_Client.DLL	1/25/13	1/25/13	Completed
Beta 2 – VMARS Web Service	1/25/13	4/5/13	In Progress
Development (CSC)	2/6/13	7/25/13	In Progress
QA (CSC)	3/6/13	8/6/13	In Progress
UAT (GA and CSC)	8/19/13	8/30/13	Scheduled
Pilot (GA and CSC)	8/28/13	9/20/13	Scheduled
Implementation (GA and CSC)	9/21/13	9/26/13	Scheduled

In an effort to ensure that VMARS is working in an effective manner, the state and local agencies have formed a committee to review the Edits Manual. Hugh Warren will oversee this project.

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If you have any questions pertaining to VMARS in the future, please contact Hugh L. Warren, Jr., Lynn A. Flen, Sonia Jackson or Astride Ainsley at 404-657-2900. You can also contact Lillian Powers at 404 656-4511.

c: Yvette K. Daniels, JD - Director, Health Promotions
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