

**Date:** August 12, 2011  
**To:** IT State Employees  
**From:** Carolyn Parnell, State CIO  
**RE:** Update on IT Consolidation

Just a note to stay in touch and let you know some of the activities we have underway. I know that many people are conjecturing about how we will accomplish the IT consolidation as prescribed in legislation in such a quick timeframe; some are sharing second and third-hand information that may or may not be true; and others just are anxious to hear more news about how consolidation will affect them. Please know that we will share the mechanics of our first phase as soon as possible. In the meantime, I can report on our planning progress.

Because the reporting deadlines – the change of CIO reporting on August 20 and the change of all IT employees on October 1 – are imminent, we are focusing on short term tactical planning that will help us identify the resources that are affected by this consolidation and prepare an appropriate plan. Our goal is to minimize, as much as possible, the impact of this consolidation on the business of your agencies, and the important day-to-day work for which you are responsible. We also recognize that every agency is different, with a wide range of businesses, budgets and organizational structures, and that your uniqueness is a strength.

Therefore, our initial focus in this first phase will be on shifting accountability both within the enterprise and within the agency so that we have a full view and take management responsibility for state IT as outlined in the law without disrupting current operations by moving bodies and shifting responsibilities en masse. We need you to keep doing what you're doing with full gusto and your usual professionalism!

This week, we are working with MMB and agency leadership to finalize, communicate and enact an interagency agreement that will set our common journey in motion. Once we have accomplished the short-term definition of authority and scope, we will step back and do some long-range planning about how we – all of us - deliver IT in the State. This is the first phase of a large IT Consolidation Program that will eventually consist of multiple sub-projects and will take – as was anticipated in the legislation – several years to implement.

Meanwhile, here is some of the activity that is happening now:

- OET leadership is having multiple external communications meetings with commissioners, deputy commissioners, agency CIOs, agency CFOs, agency HR, the Governor's office and, most importantly, agency IT employees. I have, in particular, really enjoyed directly meeting with agency IT employees and look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming weeks.
- Next week we will launch a SharePoint site for all state IT employees. This will become the repository of official information and will have a discussion board for you to make suggestions and ask questions.
- Next week we will finalize the strategy, mechanics and next steps of the August 22 and October 1 transfers and provide more answers to your questions.

This is change and change is hard. No matter how much we try to minimize the impact and phase the changes, I know that it will be challenging to adjust to new ways of operating over the next few years. But I am also excited. I hope that you can see, as I do, that this as an opportunity for us to work together to create a new state IT vision that makes information technology MORE responsive than ever to the programs we serve at the same time that we create a new IT organization that gives all of us MORE opportunities to grow in our professions. I look forward to working with you to make both things happen.

Thanks to all of you for the work you do and for your willingness to serve the State of Minnesota.

Have a great weekend!