

## Executive Summary 01/27/11

The executive summary is the reporting element for each phase of the Alaska Budget System Fiscal Planning Module development-project lifecycle and for each sprint within the lifecycle’s construction phase.

### Current Lifecycle Phase: Orientation

We are currently at the end of the orientation phase of our project lifecycle. This phase was one month long and consisted of the following elements: examination of existing systems and preliminary requirements (OMB and legislative goals); researching possible barriers and opportunities; and crafting a development process framework and project lifecycle.

### Examination of Existing ABS System

The project manager and developer spent time evaluating ABS in tandem with the overall goals set by OMB and the legislature through HB 125. The final assessment concludes that the most productive way to proceed is to extend the ABS system by adding a fiscal planning module. This will ensure that all budget related tasks are conducted within one central workflow.

### Barriers and Opportunities

Initial barriers and opportunities were evaluated. Barriers included common software development challenges.

Opportunities included possible integration between the fiscal planning module and a strategic planning module to bridge the planning gap identified by the Pew Center on the States in 2008 (<http://tinyurl.com/4at2lkq>).

### Development Process Framework

The proposed process framework (a hybrid version of the Scrum agile methodology) offers solutions for many common software development challenges: lack of flexibility to accommodate change; inability to continuously deliver user tested software in a timely manner; and finally, the inability of the team to develop ownership and accountability, and to sustain the interests of stakeholders.

In every Scrum development team there are various roles. Each

## PROJECT LIFECYCLE

### Orientation (January)

- Examine existing systems
- Examine preliminary requirements (goals)
- Research barriers and opportunities
- Craft development process framework

### Initiation (February and March)

- Team building (Stakeholder Meet & Greet)
- Build requirements
- Build product work log

### Construction (April 11 through July)

Conduct five sprints including: planning; coding, documentation and review; and evaluation and reporting.

### Release (August)

- Final testing
- Move system into production
- Finalize documentation
- Finalize training

### Production (September - December)

- Provide support
- Identify and correct issues not found in testing
- Identify and implement incremental improvements
- Begin next cycle

role (including product owner, project manager, stakeholder and developer) accepts responsibility appropriate for his/her part. In addition to the importance of roles, Scrum runs in short iterations (sprints) that hold the interests of stakeholders and further their ownership in the development process.

This iterative process also allows the team to learn from previous sprints. At the beginning of each sprint, teams can alter processes, add features to the product and sprint work logs, and change the order or priority of features on the sprint work log to quickly accommodate change. Each sprint includes a planning, coding, review, evaluation and reporting phase, making it possible to deliver tested and evaluated software at the end of every sprint. In short, Scrum is a flexible process framework that encourages ownership and accountability, while providing the environment for change-friendly development of software—on time and within expectations.

### What's Next

Our next lifecycle phase is project initiation. Project initiation will run from February through March and will include team and requirements building, as well as building our initial product work log. Our first team-building event is the stakeholder meet and greet, which is tentatively scheduled for Friday, February 25. During the meet and greet, team members will be introduced to the Scrum framework, user roles and expectations, and to the project mission and goals. Following the presentation, the project manager and developer will facilitate a discussion on the requirements building process as well as a short exercise to review the requirements (story) gathering process.

Requirements building will take place between February 28 and April 5. This process includes gathering, refining and confirming user requirements and measurements. At the end of the requirements building process we will have completed our initial product work log, and the development team will meet to select priorities from the product work log for the upcoming sprint. There are five sprints tentatively scheduled between April 11 and the end of July. Each sprint includes processes such as planning, coding, documenting, testing, evaluating and reporting. At the end of each sprint, the team will deliver a complete user-tested feature (segment of software).

Our next executive summary will be released on May 4 (two days after the end of the first sprint). Succeeding summaries will be released as follows: sprint 1, May 4; sprint 2, May 31; sprint 3, June 24; sprint 4, July 21; and sprint 5, August 16.

### Questions

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