

U.S. Government Standard General Ledger (USSGL)

Board Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2015

LOCATION: Metropolitan Square Building located at 655 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC Conference Room 6N201 and 6N202

TIME: 9:30 AM to 12 PM

HANDOUTS:

- Voting Ballot #15-01
- DATA Act Implementation Update Briefing for the USSGL-IRC
- USSGL Board Meeting Ballot Items

Valeria Spinner (Fiscal Service) welcomed everyone to the Board Meeting. Introductions were made by the IRC members present in the room and those who were on the phone. **Valeria** introduced Deputy Assistant Commissioner, **Michael D. Linder (Fiscal Service)**, to the IRC members.

Renata Maziarz (Fiscal Service) and **Mindy Levit (Fiscal Service)** presented an overview of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act). The DATA Act is an expansion of the Federal Funding Accountability Transparency Act, which was enacted in 2006. The goal of the DATA Act is to provide a more complete picture of Federal Government spending. Federal contract loans and grant spending information will be linked to agency financial systems, which will enable tax payers and policymakers to track federal spending more effectively.

Michael asked whether the reconciliation process will be easier once it is linked to USASpending.gov. **Renata** responded that the DATA Act Team prefers the word "linking" instead of "reconciliation," because some data will not be reported for the DATA Act for security or privacy reasons. **Renata** said the Data Act Team is not looking for all totals to match exactly. The goal is to be able to link the information which will result in a closer tie to what is reported in the financial systems.

Teresa Tancre (OMB) asked how the Governmentwide Treasury Account Symbol Adjusted Trial Balance System (GTAS) will be involved in the DATA Act process, and whether there will be an edit check to verify what is being reported in the DATA Act database. **Renata** said the linking will occur at the

agency level, not at a government-wide level or within GTAS. She expects there will be an edit check implemented.

Isabel McConnell (Treasury) asked if the DATA act will keep the same threshold that Spending.Gov has for contracts. Currently, any contract below \$25,000 is not included on Spending.Gov. **Renata** said the policy guidance, Memorandum 15-12, which was issued by OMB on May 8th, revises the threshold amount to the micro purchase threshold. This is currently \$3,000.

Teresa commented that the majority of federal agencies do not record commitments. However, commitments are recorded in grant systems and contracting offices. Many agencies do not have an interface between those systems and offices. **Teresa** asked whether Treasury will push agencies to get interfaces between the various systems. **Renata** said the award ID link is the interface and is mentioned in the May policy guidance.

Teresa asked what is meant by the term "Proprietary Data." **Renata** said the term "Proprietary Data" refers to the non-standardized format that is specific to an agency's financial system or agency-owned data.

Teresa asked where the element definitions can be found. **Mindy** responded that the 15 finalized element definitions can be found on the MAX page linked through the USA Spending DATA Act page. The financial elements were taken from the OMB Circular A-11.

Isabel asked for further explanation on the DATA broker and how it will work. **Mindy** said the DATA Act Team is creating a prototype DATA broker that will be provided to agencies once it is completed. Each agency will have to tailor the DATA broker to fit their individual systems. The DATA broker contains rules that will translate the agency format to the DATA Act schema. The broker will also contain validation rules that are currently being developed. Once the data are mapped and validated, they will be submitted to Treasury for posting.

Andre Small (Treasury) asked whether the DATA Broker will have the capability of taking multiple files or tables and validating them before they are sent to Treasury. **Renata** responded that they are piloting the DATA Broker with the Small Business Administration. Once the pilot has concluded at the end of the summer, the DATA Act Team will use the findings to determine the capabilities of the DATA Broker.

Bruce Henshel (Commerce) emphasized the importance of understanding that the data submitted for the DATA Act will not exactly agree with the data

in the GTAS general ledger because the DATA Act is only collecting data above the micro threshold.

Webster Coleman (DOL) requested that **Renata** list the 3 financial providers. **Renata** said the financial providers are Oracle, SAP and CGI momentum. The DATA Act Team is working with the vendors and has set up a product control board.

Teresa presented budgetary updates. The OMB Circular No. A-11 issue list was vetted internally and will be distributed to the agencies' budgetary counterparts. **Teresa** said she will also send the issue proposals and other potential changes for the OMB Circular No. A-11 to **Valeria** to be distributed to agencies. Any comments regarding the OMB Circular No. A-11 should be submitted through an agency's budget office.

Kathy Wages (Fiscal Service) presented the proposed changes to existing USSGL account 579100, "Adjustment to Financing Sources-Downward Reestimate or Negative Subsidy for FY2015. The account title will be revised to "Adjustment to Financing Sources- Credit Reform." In addition, the Modification Adjustment Transfer (M.A.T) and the word "gain" will be added to the definition.

Andre asked when the Federal/Nonfederal attribute will be limited to an "F" for Federal. **Kathy** said the USSGL Advisory Division is still working with Financial Reports Division to get the "F" attribute domain value added back to USSGL account 579100.

Valeria mentioned that USSGL will continue to work with the Credit Reform subcommittee to update case studies for Credit Reform for FY 2016.

Michele Crosco (Fiscal Service) presented new USSGL account 320700, "Appropriations Outstanding-Used" for FY 2015. USSGL account 320700 is the General Fund's offset to USSGL account 310700, "Unexpended Appropriations-Used." This account will flow to Reciprocal Category 42 "Appropriations Used." It is only reported by the General Fund. However, some auditors may require this account be added to agencies' Chart of Accounts. **Michele** explained that it is impossible for an agency to report USSGL account 320700 because the Attribute Table only allows the fund type "GA" (General Fund Authority) which can only be submitted by the General Fund. This change is slated for period 11, but could go into GTAS as early as period 9. There are also several General Fund accounts anticipated for FY 2016 that will appear on a special ballot later this year.

An IRC member asked whether the creation of USSGL account 320700 would resolve intragovernmental differences within the intragovernmental module in the third quarter. **Kirstie Pottmeyer Hart (Fiscal Service)** responded that it would not resolve differences for the third quarter. However, this difference will not be held against an agency's scorecard. The explanation for the difference is still required until all changes are incorporated within GTAS.

Yianting Lee (HHS) asked for further explanation of Reciprocal Category 39 "Appropriations Used/Appropriations Outstanding." **Kirstie** explained the agency side is USSGL account 310700, which will crosswalk to the Reclassified Statement of Changes of Net Position. When the General Fund is able to report USSGL account 320700, it will reciprocate against 310700. Agencies will be required to differentiate between disbursements of appropriated funds versus disbursements of non-appropriated funds in order to split out the disbursement Business Event Type Code (BETC) to populate USSGL account 320700.

Karen Hunter (SSA) and **State Department** expressed concerns about the splitting of the disbursement BETC into two. **Bruce** said breaking out the BETC would be a massive impact on agencies and recommended the issue be discussed further in a meeting with all the agencies. **Yianting** agreed that this would be a major change for HHS to implement for FY 2015. **Teresa** said the budget side of OMB would also be interested in attending a meeting about this issue because the BETC has a relationship with budgetary data.

Teresa asked why the direct and reimbursable attribute is not being used against the proprietary side instead of creating new BETC codes. The attribute would give the accrual and the disbursement. **Teresa** recommended the terminology be clearly defined before moving forward. **Jaime Saling (Fiscal Service)** said the Financial Reports Division (FRD) is still working on the BETC and will conduct meetings the following week to start developing the BETC. FRD welcomes any comments and concerns regarding the BETC.

Valeria said the USSGLAD will schedule another meeting to further discuss the new BETC to address each agency's concerns.

Jeff Taberner (Fiscal Service) presented proposed USSGL account 113500, "Funds Held by the Public-Non Budgetary" for FY2016. This account will help those agencies who were having difficulty passing Edit 5 in GTAS.

Eileen Parlow (SEC) asked for clarification of the word "by" in the title of USSGL account 113500. She said if the public is holding funds, it cannot be

budgetary, because the public owns the funds. Because the funds are actually held by the Federal Government outside of Treasury she suggested the word "by" be removed. **Teresa** asked if the title could remain the same if further information is incorporated in the definition that specifies USSGL account 113500 relates to the Cash Held and Investments Outside of Treasury (CIHO). **Bruce** also suggested changing the title of USSGL account 113500 to "Funds Held Outside of Treasury-Non Budgetary" and working on further defining what should actually be reported in USSGL account 119000, "Other Funds". **Jeff** said based on the feedback, the title of USSGL account 113500 will be revised to "Funds Held Outside of Treasury-Non Budgetary" and USSGL account 113000 will be revised to "Funds Held Outside of Treasury-Budgetary". The wording will be added to the definition of both accounts that specifies they are for cash deposited in accounts outside of the U.S. Treasury in non-Treasury General Accounts (non-TGAs).

Michele presented a proposed change to USSGL account 214100 for FY 2016. The title will be revised from "Accrued Interest Payable-Debt" to "Accrued Interest Payable-Loans". She also presented the proposed new USSGL account 214200, "Accrued Interest Payable-Debt". These changes were made to resolve intragovernmental reporting issues.

Kent Linscott (Fiscal Service) presented miscellaneous USSGL account updates. The definition of USSGL accounts 1351000, "Capitalized Loan Interest, 251100 "Capitalized Loan Interest Payable-Non-Credit Reform," 619000, "Contra Bad Debt Expense—Incurred for Others," and 750000 "Distribution of Income-Dividend. USSGL accounts 135100 and 251000 were modified to include language that clarifies the use of these accounts for the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund Obligations. USSGL accounts 619000 and 750000 were updated as a result of changes made to TFM Chapter 2-4700.

Valeria listed the projects that the USSGL will be focusing on for FY 2016, which include updating credit reform case studies, the General Fund, a scenario for contingent and unfunded liabilities, Deposit Fund Subcommittee, the DATA Act, and the USSGL to BETC Crosswalk.

Michele reminded attendees that the revised ballot will be posted on the USSGL website. Votes must be received by May 28th.

Valeria adjourned the meeting.

PARTICIPANTS:

Valeria Spinner, Fiscal Service
Marlana White, Fiscal Service
Karen Hunter, SSA
Isabel McConnell, Treasury
Yianting Lee, HHS
Anne Kahle, HHS
Alfred Buck, USAID
Alex Lopez, VBA
Oscar Castro, Fiscal Service
Carl Fredericks, NRC
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Joseph Doyle, SBA
Hesham Abelaziz, USDA
Eileen Parlow, SEC
Michael Ward, GSA
Andre Small, Treasury
Mark Santucci, Education
Valerie Grant, DOJ
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Bruce Henshel, Commerce
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