

OpenELIS Monthly Subcommittee Call

August 14, 2013

- Gary Jones – Director, OpenELIS Foundation
 - Steve Davis – Community member
 - Reshma Kakkar - TSJG
 - John Vaughan - TSJG
 - Dari Shirazi – Iowa
 - Mark Mantle – Missouri, Project Manager
1. Challenges with finding funding and resources for PHLs.
 - a. Discussed putting together group of services that could be contracted
 - i. Project management
 - ii. Developer services
 2. John asked question about what we were seeing across the board
 - a. Fresno and Missouri have funding but can't find the right people
 - b. Internal development focused on MS platform so folks not experienced with Java.
Database of choice is Oracle so they have to look outside
 3. Dari said concern was that with contractors, when they leave, knowledge base is lost
 - a. So would help to have a steady resource that could be hired out based on requirements
 - b. Would not have to re-learn every time
 4. Gary said that if had the single person it would help to keep the code base common to all systems
 - a. Long term this would add to pool of resources
 5. Iowa has 3 developers and they are spending quite a bit of their time on OpenELIS.
 - a. There are several tasks to do that could benefit from additional developers
 - b. Even though processes are somewhat different there are many similarities
 - c. May need to look into how to modify processes rather than modifying software
 6. Reshma said that Missouri did not need PM time but others might. So OE Foundation should consider providing a menu of services that labs could pick and choose from
 7. Dari
 - a. Changing processes is probably more challenging than writing code.
 8. Gary
 - a. Ideally would have someone who has lab experience
 - b. Might take multiple disciplines.
 - c. Need people who can provide support outside the core lab but have SME knowledge.
 - d. Could identify people in different areas of the lab – e.g. from bacteriology, microbiology.
 - e. Could we ask APHL for U.S. Labs.
 9. Reshma

- a. We had discussed use of the website to do some knowledge management and document questions and answers that had been asked by sites

10. Dari

- a. User manual is pretty good and we welcome more assistance in that. But there are other things missing
 - i. Working off postgres that allows more flexibility with database. Noticing lack of documentation for new developers. So going through same set of problems trying to maintain things.
 - ii. There are many steps that need to be worked through and these need to be explained. There may be new versions of things that need to be maintained long term. So a mouse click video may not be explanatory enough

11. Gary

- a. CIFOR application also required a lot of documentation on how to install Oracle on a desktop. Seemed like every few months the installation procedures would not to be changed. But if have a new person come on board, they may not always be able to work through instructions and figure it out as something may have changed since documentation was developed

12. Dari

- a. Need more help than small group keeping up the documentation

13. Mark

- a. Try to hire and also bid work out to get appropriate people
 - i. Percentage is based on price and percentage on process. Govt jobs pay lower salaries so hard to get FTE's. So contract out when there is a need
 - ii. Gary asked if the developer had to be in-house or could be located anywhere.
 - iii. Mark said they do have developers that are remote
 - iv. Most projects are done on fixed price
 - v. There are approx. 10 contractors that can all bid on a project when it is announced
 - vi. Every state has an approved vendor list and have to be on that list to bid on a project
- b. John
 - i. Strategy for approaching this
 - ii. Do we try and get on the preferred vendors' list
 - iii. Assuming RKV, contracting company in Missouri, is gaining a lot of OE experience and this would be a good opportunity to capitalize on this

14. Mark

- a. One way to weed out vendors is by putting very specific language in the bid.

15. Dari asked Joh's opinion abou whether this was the right directopn

- a. Technical expertise needed is along the lies of to what vendors do
- b. We could also look into contacting other state PHL's and see what their barriers are

16. Reshma

- a. Suggested creating spreadsheet to determine commonalities

b. This might also help us figure out a strategy for getting labs to come on board