FEDERAL DEMONSTRATION PARTNERSHIP
Redefining the Government & University Research Partnership

eRA Standing Committee Summary of Working Groups
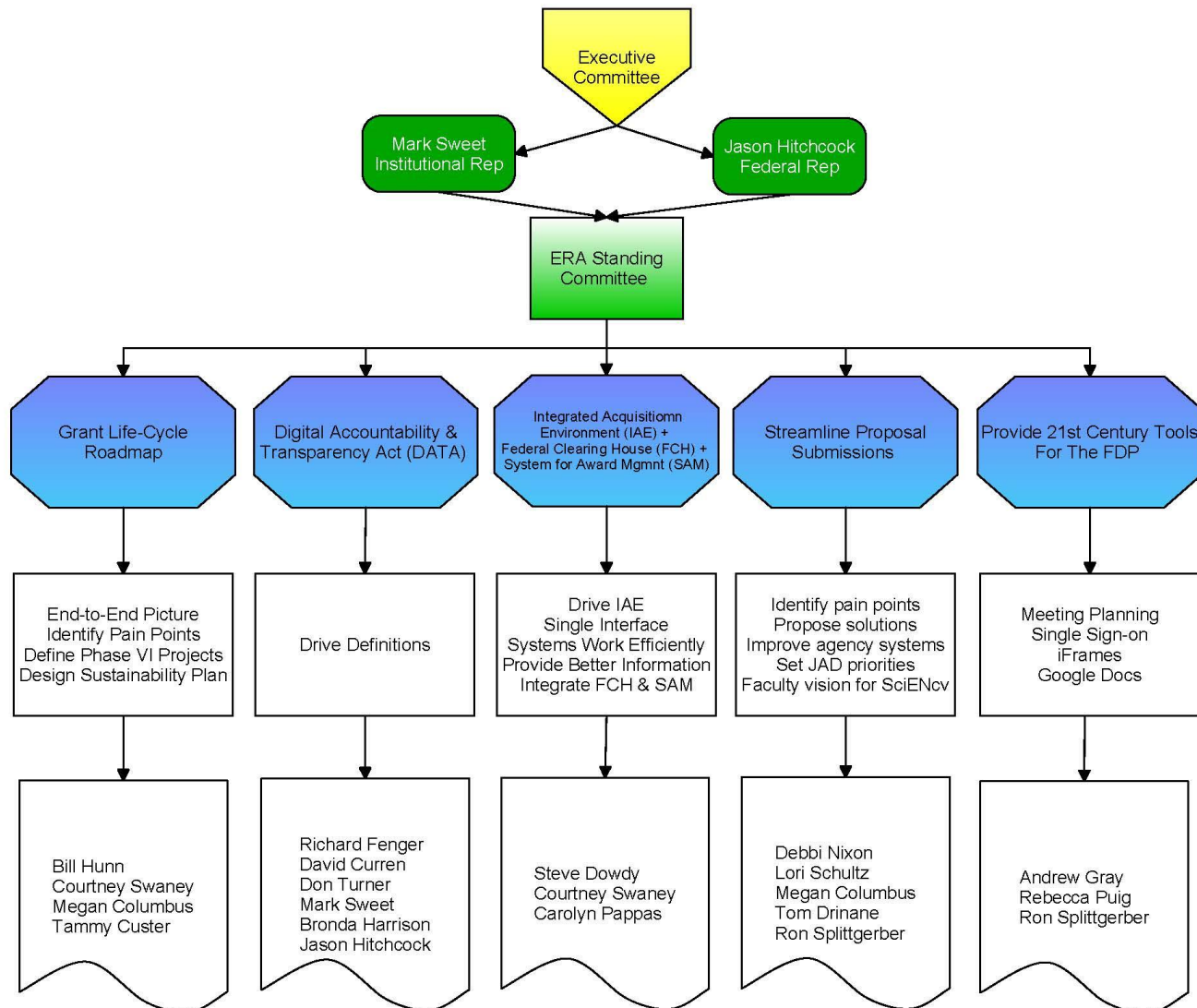
FDP Meeting

May 12, 2015
eRA Committee

Strategic Priority Areas

- Grants Life-Cycle Roadmap
- DATA Act
- Integrated Acquisition Environment/SAM
- Streamline Proposal Submissions
- 21st Century Tools for FDP

eRA Committee Organization

Grants Life-Cycle Roadmap

- Leads: Bill, Courtney, Megan, Tammy
- The purpose of this group is to develop an end-to-end picture of the electronic grant life cycle as the context for developing a road map and identifying potential projects for the FDP eRA Committee in Phase VI.

- http://goo.gl/r4iwTD

- Update presented by: Bill Hunn

Grants Life-Cycle Roadmap

Group Overview:

- The goal is to take a holistic view of the Federal grant making enterprise to identify opportunities for collaboration that leads to improvement for all stakeholders across the grants life cycle.

Primary Objective of May 11th group meeting:

- Engage the FDP members in identifying the biggest opportunities for improvement.

- 22 individuals attended this discussion – including leads

Grants Life-Cycle Roadmap

General group observations of context for roadmap:

- In terms of granularity, it was generally agreed that three standard high-level components of research administration include Pre-Award, Award and Post-Award activities.

- However, we recognized there is variability as to what is included in the scope of our respective processes and many of the issues being raised would span the end-to-end cycle.

- As such, we elected to focus on the issues to recommend for further discussion, with less concern at this time for where they might be situated in the grants life-cycle.

Grants Life-Cycle Roadmap

High level take-aways for consideration:

- Document our ideals and convey related administrative burden that might be relieved around:

  - Central system for all registration data
  - Sub-recipient monitoring
  - User Roles/Permissions
  - Common Data Dictionaries and Data Models
  - Consistent Data Management Plans
  - Standardized Bio-sketches, Current and Pending Support
  - Common System Developement and Delivery practices
  - Standard Sponsor Master with Hierarchical Relationships

Grants Life-Cycle Roadmap

High level take-aways for consideration (cont):

- Gain a renewed understanding and perspective for demands on both Agencies and Institutions

  - Too many systems – are we moving away from the single common solution model?
  - Agencies have requirements they must address with very similar but not identical needs.
  - Institutions doing the same with unique considerations for what drives their decisions
  - Understanding most productive approach toward presenting solutions to benefit all stakeholders.

Grants Life-Cycle Roadmap

Next steps:

- Develop materials for presentation to eRA Standing Committee during the July monthly meeting.

- Identify FDP members who are interested in tackling one of two of the top priority areas.

DATA Act

- Leads: Don, Mark, Bronda, Jason with the Open Government group

- The purpose of the working group is to keep tabs on the activities of OMB and Treasury as they implement the DATA.   In addition, FDP will provide feedback, guidance, and offer testing/validation assistance as the DATA enters pilot phases.

- http://goo.gl/WjNSmE

- Update presented by: Mark Sweet

DATA Act Update

- Reviewed the draft response to the OMB/Treasury feedback questions

- Data element analysis and feedback to OMB/Treasury ongoing

- Provide documentation to the DATA Act project management office to help PMO understand FDP perspective

DATA Act Update

- Pilot phase is beginning.   Pilot is iterative and what is learned in early phases of pilot will be applied to later phases

- September meeting there will be an update on the DATA Act: status and next step of pilot.

Streamline Proposal Submission

- Leads: Tom, Debbi, Lori, Megan, Ron
- This group is working to identify and prioritize the many opportunities for improvements that exist in the application process, from institutional registration in federal systems through application submission and status tracking. We will propose strategies to implement improvements and work with FDP institutions, federal agencies, and Grants.gov to implement pilots, demonstrations, or proposed solutions.

- http://goo.gl/vawVPo
- Update presented by: Megan Columbus

Streamline Proposal Submissions

Agency Use of Forms:

- Misuses/repurposing of field

- Agencies lack of understanding of how to correctly and logically post FOAs (non-compatible forms, outdated forms)

- FOAs that change up until the last minute

- Refs/certs are in SAM – should not have to sign, scan and attach to application

- Last minute changes to FOAs should stop deadline clock

- Want a single set of instructions rather than links to multiple documents

Streamline Proposal Submissions

Standardized Application Formats

- Biosketches

- Current and Pending Support

- Data Management Plans

- Consistent FAR clauses for contracts

Streamline Proposal Submisison

Proliferation of Agency Systems

- Need single portal - too many submission systems with varying registration processes

- Need single sign-on for all

- Need a way to manage permissions and roles - more flexible/granularity

- Different submission systems are a problem, even when grants.gov is an option

- Agency validations not enforced before submission

- APIs needed as standard practice for system integration - SciENcv

Streamline Proposal Submission

Accounts and Permissions

- Need single sign-on for all systems

- Need a way to manage permissions and roles - more flexible/granular

- Desire for role based rather than people based permissions

Streamline Proposal Submisison

Just In Time

- How much detail needed at time of application? Budget detail needed?

- Small biz contracts JIT?

Centralized Functions

- PostAward.gov

- Representations and Certifications are already in SAM. Need with application submission?

Streamline Proposal Submisison

Big pain points we may have missed?

21ˢᵗ Century Tools for FDP

- Leads: Andrew, Rebecca, Ron
- Given the increase in size of the FDP membership for Phase VI, our working group plans to explore the use of collaborative tools to enhance and facilitate FDP's communication and planning.

- http://goo.gl/7J3Iuw

- Update presented by: Ron Splittgerber

21ˢᵗ Century Tools for The FDP

Participants in Working Group
- Amanda Lindsay
- Tim Savage
- Melissa Korf
- Suzanne Alstadt
- T Mathew
- David Driesbach
- Kevin Mikel
- Ken Packman
- Robert Kerley
- Bronda Harrison
- Mark Sweet
- Jason Myers
- Ron Splittgerber

21ˢᵗ Century Tools for The FDP

Issues Identified by Group

- Organization of email threads and topics with attachments

- Real-time Website updates (Blogs, Committee activity)

- Group organization

- Meeting Planning

- Project management
  - Task assignments
  - Tracking tasks

- Identified more than a dozen possible Tools

21ˢᵗ Century Tools for The FDP

- The group agreed to a **Pilot** using Google Tools, Doodle and Trello

- Requirements for the **Pilot** will be based on the proposal to the Executive Committee by the Subawards Group (see https://goo.gl/cEcayT)

- After a review of this document by the attendees, the group agreed to set up a meeting virtually before the end of May 2015 with a target of a report on progress by the September FDP meeting

21ˢᵗ Century Tools for The FDP

Volunteers for the **Pilot** include:

- Melissa Korf
- Jason Myers
- Ron Splittgerber
- Possible help from Duke representative
- Others?

21ˢᵗ Century Tools Future Plans

- Allow access to Collaboration Tools through membership in Google Groups for FDP members
- Publish meeting presentations in Google Docs folder ahead of time
- Establish parallel resources for other eRA Committees
- Offer results of the Subaward Trello **Pilot** to Executive Committee and other FDP Standing Committee
- See full report at: https://goo.gl/cEcayT

Future Participation

- To indicate interest in future participation on a working group, add name & email to Doodle poll:

  https://doodle.com/pfckvw8q8hs8c7py

- Sign up for the FDP eRA email list:

  http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/fdp/PGA_054596

Questions and Open Discussion