

**RFB #1733DPH-BC**  
**MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SYSTEM REPLACEMENT**  
**Questions and Answers**

1: Could you please describe the platform that the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) systems are running?

WI ANS: Our current MCH system is a java-based web application utilizing an internally-developed framework, hosted at our state data center. The back-end database is Oracle 11g, and SAS is used for ad-hoc reporting functions.

2: Can you tell me if any of your hosting is on a Unisys mainframe?

WI ANS: The applications are hosted on servers running Windows Server 2008.

3: Has the Department already secured funding for an MCH system, or do you still have to look?

WI ANS: The Department has MCH funding to support MCH business requirements; the availability of funding, and the cost of various solutions, will certainly be a consideration in deciding what path forward we will follow.

4: How long do you think it may take to review the RFI responses and determine how to proceed with replacing SPHERE (such as through an RFP)?

WI ANS: RFI responses are due by December 23<sup>rd</sup>, and will be reviewed into January. After responses are reviewed and internal estimates are developed and reviewed, a decision will be made as to how to proceed. At this time there is not a timeline for that decision.

5: Is the MCP program related at all to the WIC program?

WI ANS: There is overlap between the MCH program and the WIC program in that they may serve the same individuals.

6: What is e-Outcomes?

WI ANS: E-Outcomes is an offline technology system using handheld computers used by home visiting projects that allows data collection in the home while providing service (e.g., developmental screening, home safety assessments). Data is loaded from the handheld device into the MCH system after the home visit.

7: What kind of portable device is/will be used for e-Outcomes.

WI ANS: The device is a handheld computer.

8: In what way does the system need to process birth records?

WI ANS: The MCH system serves as the means for efficiently and securely providing electronic birth records to local health departments. Currently, birth records are passed to the MCH system and automatically assigned to a given jurisdiction based on birth mother home address. The system needs to allow workers to re-assign these birth records to other jurisdictions when they are incorrectly assigned or if an appropriate jurisdiction is not found, and to grant view access to specific birth records to individuals in other jurisdictions. An ideal system would also automate the process of requesting this view access, as well as provide a mechanism for converting birth records into client cases by populating demographic data from the birth record into the MCH system.

9: How is "Worker made aware of new birth record?"

WI ANS: Assuming this is a reference to Use Case "DEMO003 – Convert Birth Record to Client Demographics", this functionality does not currently exist in the MCH system. Not all birth records would be converted to clients, thus notification could be automated (specifically in the case of a new birth record matching an existing client) or manual (in the case of a worker determining that a new birth record received should become a client). The automated notification method (if any) can take many forms, e.g., system message, report, e-mail.

10: How are local look-up codes used?

WI ANS: Local codes are fields that are specific to a particular agency. For example, in the current MCH system 'Location' is a required field on the Activity screen. Location includes things like: Child Care, School, Work site, Home, Clinic, etc. and then the local code can be used to define specific locations. For example, if the location was Child Care a local code would be the child care in the organizations in the organization's jurisdiction such as ABC Children's Center, KinderCare, Day by Day Discovery, etc.

12: What are the local look-up codes?

WI ANS: Please see above.

13: What are the functions of the look-up codes?

WI ANS: The functions of the local look-up codes are to give a local jurisdiction the ability to enter data for something which is specific to them and their jurisdiction, such as specific locations, funding sources, provider clinics, etc.

14: What is a Template Objective?

WI ANS: "Objectives" are annual service goals defined for a given program within a given timeframe, often measures of individual or community activities tracked in the MCH system.

15: Differences between and organization--who are partner agency users?

WI ANS: Partner agency users are staff working in local public health departments. The vast majority of MCH system users are not employees of the State of Wisconsin.

16: Does DPH envision hosting the replacement application or is it looking for a vendor hosted option?

WI ANS: DPH is experienced with and open to discussing all hosting options.

17: What is the current annual budget for the SPHERE application software, hardware and support (please breakout the response by category)?

WI ANS: DPH does not feel that detailed information pertaining to SPHERE's current annual budget would provide information that would be useful for vendors in responding to this RFI.

18: Is there a birth records system that would need to be interfaced to for sharing demographics data?

WI ANS: Birth record data is currently passed to the MCH system from the Wisconsin Statewide Vital Records Information System (SVRIS). Birth data is secured in its own set of tables separate from the MCH system, and is viewable only by select staff in the appropriate jurisdiction. No data is passed from MCH to SVRIS, and such an interface is not currently a business requirement.

19: When does DHS need to have a replacement SPHERE system deployed?

WI ANS: We are currently considering replacement/re-engineering options, but there is no timetable or hard end-date for the replacement of SPHERE.

20: Will DHS provide a demonstration of the existing SPHERE system?

WI ANS: SPHERE does not currently meet all MCH business requirements, thus a demonstration of SPHERE would not provide an adequate overview of the sort of MCH system DPH hopes to build or procure. However, if vendors feel a demonstration of SPHERE would help them provide better responses to the RFI, DPH would be willing to do so.

21: Does DHS prefer to host the new version of the SPHERE system?

IF Yes, does the development stack for the new product have to match the internal versioning supported by DHS's data center?

Will the development stack be limited to open source modules that only DHS' data center supports?

If Yes, does the product have to integrate the security modules developed by the data center so that there is a single login process for state employees?

If Yes, will the state be providing the hardware, and the development, test, deployment environments?

WI ANS: DPH is experienced with and open to discussing all hosting options. Should local hosting become the preferred solution, the application would likely be hosted at the state's data center, and questions pertaining to such things as software versions and authentication rules would need to be addressed by the Department of Administration's Division of Enterprise

Technology (DET). This should not be viewed as a limiting factor, as DET has shown itself to be very adaptable in this area.

22: Will DHS provide network documentation for the existing SPHERE system?

WI ANS: DPH does not feel that detailed network documentation of our existing MCH system would provide information that would be useful for vendors in responding to this RFI, other than to note that our existing system is web-based and users, most of whom are not employees of the State of Wisconsin, can reach the system using a browser and any internet connection.

23: What do backups of the current SPHERE solution entail?

WI ANS: DPH does not feel that detailed information pertaining to the backup of our existing MCH system would provide information that would be useful for vendors in responding to this RFI. Vendors are welcome to provide information on the benefits of their system's backup capacity and mechanisms in their response.

24: What does the disaster recovery plan of the current SPHERE solution entail and who is responsible for developing and testing?

WI ANS: DPH does not feel that detailed information pertaining to the disaster recovery of our existing MCH system would provide information that would be useful for vendors in responding to this RFI. Vendors are welcome to provide information on the benefits of their system's backup recovery features in their response.

25: What is the maximum number of concurrent system users at any one point in time of the current SPHERE solution?

WI ANS: The current SPHERE application has not had any problems with user concurrency and frequently supports dozens of users working at the same time. Stress testing of the SPHERE application has shown the system to be capable of adequately supporting up to 50 concurrent virtual users.

26: Who will be maintaining the product after post launch?

WI ANS: DPH is experienced with and open to discussing any post-launch maintenance options.

27: Will there be a budget for incremental releases after development of the known use cases?

WI ANS: Portions of the MCH budget are currently used for both maintenance and enhancement of the existing MCH system, and business requirements are known to change over time. Thus it is reasonable to assume that there will continue to be a system enhancement budget even after the implementation of an ideal MCH system.