

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 26, 1997

To: Executive Staff

From: Mike Mitchell, M.D., Ph.D., Director, APR, and Administrator, QYZ

Subject: Year 2000 Conversion Efforts for APR/QYZ Information Systems

This is to update you on the APR/QYZ year 2000 conversion initiative for information systems and to request that you begin planning and implementing the necessary corrective actions.

The Y2K Problem

Because most information systems and databases were developed only allowing for 2 digits to represent the year (e.g., 96 for 1996), when we move into the next century in the year 2000, systems with 2-digit year fields may fail to operate or may give erroneous results. Congress, OMB, and HHS have indicated that information system conversion efforts for year 2000 compliance have become a national priority, and Congressional hearings and OMB oversight regarding this issue are ongoing.

Cost of Conversion

Converting information systems is a \$300-600 billion worldwide project for virtually all automated information systems, and is particularly serious for APR and QYZ since the practice of public health is so dependent upon information systems, date-oriented data, and data that originate from external sources. Our current estimate for converting APR and QYZ systems is \$14.3 million based on an inventory of 230 systems containing an estimated 12 million lines of programming code. Because OMB has precluded Federal agencies from requesting additional funds for this purpose, we must plan to address this issue without supplemental funding.

Time Table and Responsibility

Conversion efforts must begin soon to avoid significant negative consequences on the quality of science, public health data and information products, and business transactions at APR and QYZ. In addition, we also must provide leadership to the public health community in general. Each CIO should take primary responsibility for coordinating year 2000 corrective actions with their data providers and other public health partners.

Equipment Inventory

Attached is an excerpt from an inventory survey conducted by IRMO of the major information systems at APR, sorted by CIO and Office. Please review the list to ensure its comprehensiveness, provide any additions or updates to IRMO, and begin planning and implementing corrective actions. Ms. Daphne Walters, IRMO, is providing overall project coordination and can be reached at (404) 639-7600 for further assistance and guidance. She will be in contact with your system managers in the near future to continue agency project planning.

I appreciate your support of this critical initiative.

Attachment