Here is the September PMA newsletter. I want to also announce that the Performance Institute, along with a coalition of good-government groups, has sent Congress a letter asking them to act on the Program Assessment and Results Act (PARA). This is a vitally important piece of legislation that would formalize and institutionalize program assessments as part of the President's budget submission to Congress. We intend to conduct meetings with Congressional officials and work with other stakeholder groups to ensure that this legislation is carefully considered. A copy of our letter and an associated press release is listed below in the "News" section.

- Carl DeMaio



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*** If you find this newsletter useful and informative please forward it to your friends and colleagues! ***

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2005 Government Performance Summit West
December 5-7, 2005| San Deigo, CA

Show Me The Measures! Developing and Using Performance Measures in Government
September 12–13, 2005 | Arlington, VA

Performance-Based Budgeting
October 24-25, 2005 | Arlington , VA

Leading Organizational Change in Government
September 19-20, 2005 | Arlington , VA

Government-wide News

PMA yields turnaround at mismanaged agencies

Labor became an example of success in the mid-year PMA scorecard, which the Office of Management and Budget released earlier this month. It's the first agency to earn green scores in all five PMA areas—budget and performance integration, competitive sourcing, e-government, financial performance and human capital. This is the third full year in which the administration has issued evaluations. For more information, visit:
http://www.gcn.com/24_21/news/36519-1.html

More managers redefine measures of program success

For managers of 200-plus programs across government, this has been a long, anxiety-filled year. For months, they've been holding briefings and meetings, surveying stakeholders, and collecting and analyzing data, all in an effort to demonstrate their programs' effectiveness to the Office of Management and Budget. Next month, they find out how well they did.
http://www.federaltimes.com/index2.php?S=1045979

Survival of What Fits

If you're a tuned-in manager, you'll recognize this phrase: change management. You've heard it around the office when people talk about the "transformation initiative." You've heard it uttered by the consultants who wrote the initiative. You've seen it in Bush administration guidance about how to implement the initiative. And you've read "change management" in audits, maybe appended to the phrase "agency needs to do a better job of."
http://www.govexec.com/features/0805-01/0805-01s3.htm

OMB Issues New Government-Wide Guidance for Federal Charge Cards

Recently, the Office of Management and Budget issued new charge card polices to Executive Branch agencies in order to help reduce the risk of fraud, misuse and late payments. Entitled, “Improving Government Charge Card Management” and released as Appendix B to OMB Circular A-123, Management's Responsibility for Internal Control, the new requirements consolidate and update government charge card program guidance.
http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/pubpress/2005/2005-23.pdf

Budget and Performance Integration

Letter to Congress from the Performance Institute regarding the PAR Act

The Program Assessment and Results Act (PAR Act) currently before the House provides members of Congress with an important opportunity to improve effective management of every federal program and demonstrate tangible results for the taxpayer's dollars. To view a full copy of the letter go to:
www.PerformanceWeb.org

Is Your Program Or Department Being Considered For Termination?

The House Appropriations Committee on Monday began cleaning house, so to speak, by proposing to terminate numerous federal program s deemed "low priority" in hopes of saving billions in annual federal government spending.

"In a reflection of the austere budget climate, the House Appropriations Committee has proposed to terminate scores of low priority program s which will achieve billions of dollars of savings. Program terminations cover program s that were funded in last year's budget and also new program s proposed in the budget that received no funding in the spending bills," according to a Committee news release.
http://www.fedsmith.com/articles/articles.showarticle.db.php?intArticleID=642

Mercatus Center Releases New Study the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART)

A new study by the Mercatus Center at George Mason evaluates the outcomes reported by the Bush Administration's Program Assessment Rating Tool. PART was designed as a way of systematically using performance information in the budgetary process. Recent White House backed legislation to create "sunset" and results commissions is another approach that the White House hopes will advance the assessment of government programs based upon their performance.
http://www.mercatus.org/governmentaccountability/article.php/1280.html

2005-2006 Government Performance Management Offerings

The Institute's most popular training program assists government managers in measuring and reporting the results of their

programs. Through this comprehensive training program, you will master strategic planning, performance measurement, performance budgeting and program evalution techniques. Designed with the latest government performance mandates in mind, you will emerge from courses armed with the skills to plan, measure, and evaluate and budget…for results in government.
www.PerformanceWeb.org/Performance

Improved Financial Performance

Financial Management: State and Federal Governments Are Not Taking Action to Collect Unpaid Debt Through Reciprocal Agreements

The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA) allows the federal government to collect state debts from federal payments to contractors. However, before a state can participate in this program, DCIA requires that the state enter into a reciprocal agreement with the Department of Treasury that would require the state to collect unpaid federal debt from state payments if Treasury collects unpaid state debt from federal payments.
http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-697R

Homeland Security Financial Management Project in Limbo

Homeland Security's chief financial officer is reevaluating options for integrating management data across the department and says he will settle on a game plan within the next two months.
http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=32008&dcn=gpra

Achieving Green in Financial Performance

A report in conjunction with the President's Management Agenda established a set of financial management guidelines to drive results, in order to help agencies achieve a “Green” rating under the financial performance initiative on the PMA scorecard. The document also serves as a benchmarking tool because it uncovers the financial management initiatives of other agencies. This allows for all agencies to develop new directives, or develop fresh ideas for their existing initiatives.
http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/financial/fia/achieving_green.pdf

2005-2006 Financial Management in Government Offerings

Government programs are under increasing pressure to become transparent with their finances: from tracking funds to reporting full cost services. The Institute's financial management course address the latest financial management standards in government, including accelerated financial reporting, improving internal controls, auditing program finances, integrating budget and performance and implementing activity-based costing.
http://www.performanceweb.org/CENTERS/Budget_Financial/index.html

Strategic Management of Human Capital

OPM Announces Agencies Selected to Be Shared Service Center Providers as Part of the HR Line of Business

The United States Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced the five agencies that were selected to be the Shared Service Center providers under OPM's Human Resources Line of Business (HR LOB). These agencies were selected on the ongoing condition that they meet all the requirements of the HR LOB.

"This is a significant step forward for the Human Resources Line of Business," said Norm Enger, Director of the Human Resources Line of Business for OPM. "The selection of the Shared Service Center (SSC) providers will lead to better services and most innovative solutions with the lowest cost. These centers will provide business and technology solutions

to support multiple agencies. The result will be an estimated savings of $1.1 billion over 10 years."
http://www.opm.gov/viewDocument.aspx?q=956

Report outlines lessons of GAO personnel reforms

Leaders of the movement to overhaul the government's personnel system would do well to heed the lessons of the Government Accountability Office's human resources efforts, according to a new report.

The report, from the IBM Center for the Business of Government, studied GAO's implementation of personnel reforms under authorities granted by Congress. The GAO is an oversight agency that audits federal agency activities for Congress.
http://www.businessofgovernment.org/pdfs/WaltersReport3.pdf

OPM Implements Governmentwide Direct-Hire Authority for Certain Federal Acquisition Positions

Washington , DC - Linda M. Springer, Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, has issued an interim regulation granting non-Department of Defense agencies a new hiring flexibility that enhances agencies' ability to strategically and more effectively attract candidates with unusually high qualifications into the acquisition workforce. The regulation is in the Federal Register.
http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a050804c.html

Working for America Act of 2005

The Administration has developed draft legislation to require agencies to better manage, develop, and reward employees to better serve the American people. We are now beginning a process to inform all interested parties of our thinking. There will be much public debate and discussion in the months ahead about whether, how and when to adopt these proposals. We want this debate to be as informed as possible, to be about the facts of the proposal, and not what some may suppose it is about.
http://www.whitehouse.gov/results/agenda/working.html

2005-2006 Human Capital Management for Government Offerings

Government agencies require the right people, in the right job, with the right skills, at the right time, under the right compensation and evaluation arrangement. That's a lot of rights to get right. That's why the Institute offers the only HR certification designed exclusively for government managers. Courses address human capital planning, succession planning, employee performance evaluation and other key HR management issues vital to making government agencies “employers of choice” rather than “employers of last resort.”
http://www.performanceweb.org/CENTERS/Human_Capital/index.html

Competitive Sourcing

Agencies push to reorganize to avoid job competitions

A handful of Defense Department organizations are pressing Pentagon officials to shield them from future job competitions on grounds that they are already reorganizing themselves, adopting efficiencies and producing savings.
http://www.federaltimes.com/index2.php?S=1045982

GSA , DHS cooperate on 'strategic sourcing'
By Kimberly Palmer

kpalmer@govexec.com

The General Services Administration is working with the Homeland Security Department's desire to beef up its strategic sourcing program, which involves leveraging the agency's purchasing power to get better deals on goods and services.
http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0805/083005k1.htm

GSA to examine schedules use

One of the first duties of the reorganized General Services Administration will be to figure out just what agencies are buying through the popular schedules contracts.
http://www.fcw.com/article89933-08-16-05-Web

Share-in-savings not tested, GAO says

More than two years after the E-Government Act of 2002 authorized share-in-savings contracts, the Office of Management and Budget has not issued guidance or implementing regulations.

http://www.fcw.com/article89697-07-26-05-Web

GSA reorganization sparks internal anxiety

Senior managers worry about their careers as agencies choose to buy independently. As the General Services Administration sorts out the details of its reorganization, senior managers and vendors have expressed concern and confusion over the impact the changes will have on them, while agency clients have said the changes are unlikely to increase the amount of business they do with GSA.
http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=32147&dcn=todaysnews

2005-2006 Contracting and Acquisition Management for Government Offerings

In response to new requirements for performance-based contracting, competitive sourcing and earned value management in government acquisition, the Institute offers a training program designed exclusively for government contracting staff and those wanting to move into this field. Attendees will emerge from courses able to integrate performance measures into government contracts, craft performance-based “Statements of Work” and “Statements of Objective,” engage in strategic “Solutions Development” using the acquisition process and evaluate sourcing alternatives using cost and performance standards. To find our more, go to:
http://www.performanceweb.org/CENTERS/Contracting_Competitive/index.html

Expanded E-Government

Agencies Top Tech Employees Eligible for Public-Private Swap

The Office of Personnel Management has unveiled rules setting up a program to allow high-performing information technology employees at the GS-11 grade or higher to take temporary positions in the private sector to enhance their skills.
http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=32014&dcn=gpra

HHS Formally Recognizes e-Records Unit

The Health and Human Services secretary recently announced a new department regime that formally recognizes the office charged with developing a national infrastructure for electronic health records.
http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=32035&dcn=gpra

Preparing for IPv6: The game is afoot

The Office of Management and Budget has given agencies a tight timetable for moving to the next generation of Internet Protocols over the next three years. That might a good thing.

“An aggressive schedule may be appropriate to move the government in this direction,” said Walt Grabowski, vice president of network integration for SI International Inc. “Without an aggressive goal, nothing would happen.”
http://www.gcn.com/24_23/e_gov/36648-1.html

2005-2006 Information Technology Management for Government Offerings

One of the most high-risk areas in government management, agencies spend hundreds of millions of dollars each year on IT. OMB is now mandating accountability for the use of those resources through the Exhibit 300 and the E-Government Initiative of the President's Management Agenda. The institute offers a government IT Management program addressing essential challenges facing today's government IT professional. Find out more at:
http://www.performanceweb.org/CENTERS/Information_Tech/

President: Carl DeMaio
Newsletter Editor: Katina Baarslag

The **Implementation Update on the PMA** is provided as a free monthly e-newsletter to all federal employees about the latest news from the federal government and independent news media about the President's Management Agenda— the Administration's plan to improve performance of government. The Performance Institute is a private think tank that serves as the nation's leading authority and repository on performance-based management practices for government organizations. Its mission is to identify study and disseminate the leading management innovations pioneered by “best-in-class” government programs at federal, state and local levels. Through its national conferences on pressing issues, interactive executive training programs, and best practice research projects, the Institute provides cutting-edge expertise in the design, implementation and evaluation of strategies to solve operational challenges and enhance government performance.

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