State of Alaska
Department of Administration
Division of Retirement & Benefits

Combined Retirement System (CRS) – Modernization Project

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CRS Modernization

Agenda

- **Background**

- **Why Change?**

- **System Modernization**

- **Other Items**

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BACKGROUND

Combined Retirement System

- The Combined Retirement System, or CRS, started production in the late 1990s

- It was initially used as a retiree payroll processing system, issuing the monthly retirement checks

- Use as an employer subsidiary system and payroll processing program began in 2000 replacing a much older system

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Combined Retirement System

Use by the Division

- CRS is a mainframe product

- Support for this system is slowly eroding

- System upgrades are difficult, time consuming, and modification is expensive

- Multiple iterations of programs used by employers to migrate data, like DataEntr and eReporting

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Combined Retirement System

Use by Employers

- Much work is performed AFTER data is imported into CRS

- Payroll "errors" are not noted until payroll is matched up with CRS information

- System is still functional, but many years of improvements are available for data entry, compliance, and processing

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WHY CHANGE?

Why Change?

- CRS is old and not supported by vendor

- Great advances in technology that are not being used

- Currently using multiple programs to do the work that are available in one system

- New system would be more efficient for the Retirement Systems and provide better products for the employers and members

Why Change?

- This upgraded system will replace many manual processes performed by the Division

- The Division will have everything under an integrated system (replacing multiple systems the Division currently uses with duplicate data)

- Able to integrate the health benefits of the retirement plans, eliminating duplicate work

SYSTEM MODERNIZATION

System Modernization

- New vendor is Sagitec

- Sagitec is headquartered in Minnesota with offices in the USA, Canada, and other international areas

- They design and deliver tailor-made pension, and health and life software solutions to clients of all sizes

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System Modernization

- Their product is called NEOSPIN, but DRB will rebrand with something "catchy and cool" ☺

- Browser-based software system

- Benefit to members and employers with self-service capabilities

- Changes the way DRB interacts with employers and members

System Modernization

- Employer payroll reporting will change

- Payroll staff will be able to see and correct errors prior to submitting the files for processing

- More error checking capabilities ahead of time will eliminate back and forth with DRB

- DRB will update employers on key dates and impacts

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System Modernization

Systems using Sagitec

- Ohio School Employees' Retirement System

- Denver Employees' Retirement Plans

- Kentucky TRS

- North Dakota PERS

- Virginia Retirement System

- Kansas PERS

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System Modernization

Systems using Sagitec

- Fire & Police Pension Association of Colorado

- Massachusetts State Retirement Board

- Montana PERA

- Missouri County Employees' Retirement Fund

- California TRS

- Utah Retirement System

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OTHER ITEMS

Other Items

Teacher Service End Dates

- Teacher Service End (TSE) letters sent to your payroll staff by email on April 30th with a reminder sent the week of May 18

- TSE and TERM events need to be entered to ensure that service is correct

- TSE dates are to be entered the day after the last day worked; TERM events need to be entered as of the last day worked

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Other Items

Employer Contribution Rates

- Employer contribution rates for FY 2021 are adopted by ARM Board

- Located on DRB website –

- **http://doa.alaska.gov/drb/employer/employer_contribution_rates/index.html**

- Select "Fiscal Year 2021"

- Rates are programmed in reporting system

Other Items

GASB reports

- Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) reports for June 30, 2020 financial statements are completed

- Located on DRB website –

- **http://doa.alaska.gov/drb/employer/resources/gasb.html**

- Necessary for your annual fiscal year end audits

Thank you

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