

taking down words

Indiana politics...à la carte

RECENT COMMENTS

on [Monday Fun: The Reason Why It Always Pays To Double-Check Your Work](#)

[Jason](#) on [You're Outta Here: DePauw Sorority Winds Up In The National Limelight](#)

on [Nowhere Fast: Guv's Lottery Lease Plan May Not Clear GOP-Dominated Senate](#)

on [You're Outta Here: DePauw Sorority Winds Up In The National Limelight](#)

on [Super 70: What Do You Mean We Have To Tell The People What We're Doing?](#)

on [Citizen Unrest: Shelbyville Meeting Turns Into Another Indy Toll Road Debate](#)

[Speedway Democrat](#) on [Citizen Unrest: Shelbyville Meeting Turns Into Another Indy Toll Road Debate](#)

on [You're Outta Here: DePauw Sorority Winds Up In The National Limelight](#)

[TDW](#) on [Monday Fun: The Reason Why It Always Pays To Double-Check Your Work](#)

on [Monday Fun: The Reason Why It Always Pays To Double-Check Your Work](#)

CATEGORIES

[2007 Session](#)

[Caption Fun](#)

[Horse Races: City](#)

[Horse Races: County](#)

[Horse Races: Federal](#)

[Horse Races: Gubernatorial](#)

[« WWF \(Winter Weather Frenzy\): You Knew It Was Coming, But Are You Ready? | Main | Give Us Your Tired, Your Poor: IBM Contract = Big Bucks For Tech Partners »](#)

Not So Fast, Mitches: Advocates Worried About Quick Transition To IBM, ACS



Golly gee, look at this: Folks are starting to raise some concerns about the \$1.16 billion privatization of Medicaid, food stamps and other social services. Namely, they're worried that the Guv and his corporate cronies might be moving a wee bit too fast as they transition from publicly funded employees to the outsourced IBM/ACS employees. The Associated Press, which pretty much has dominated coverage of this issue, reports (complete with BMV comparison!):

"Some advocates raised concerns Thursday that the state could rush its proposed transition to private vendors handling food stamp, Medicaid and Welfare cases and leave needy and vulnerable Hoosiers without the public benefits they need.

"A timeline published with the state's proposed \$1.16 billion contract with IBM Corp. to take over some benefit-processing duties shows a pilot program covering 10 percent of the state lasting roughly three months before a phased rollout begins expanding to other sections of the state.

"Aides to Gov. Mitch Daniels have emphasized the rollout of the privatization must be 'completely transitioned' from the Family and Social Services Administration in one area, no matter how long that takes, before expanding to another. However, some advocates said the timeline published and posted online Thursday renewed fears that the state might rush the changes and hurt some of the 1.1 million children and elderly, disabled and needy Hoosiers who rely on food stamps and other benefits.

"They're just trying to do it too fast,' said Patti O'Callaghan of Lafayette, who president of the Indiana Coalition for Human Services, an umbrella group of private agencies across the state that provide social services.

"The timeline with the proposed contract - which still awaits approval from federal officials - calls for the pilot program to

[Horse Races: Indiana House](#)

[Horse Races: Indiana Senate](#)

[Horse Races: Presidential](#)

[Horse Races: Statewide](#)

[Judicial Issues](#)

[Legislative Issues](#)

[Media News](#)

[News: Central Indiana](#)

[News: Federal](#)

[News: Northeast Indiana](#)

[News: Northwest Indiana](#)

[News: Southeast Indiana](#)

[News: Southwest Indiana](#)

[News: State Agencies](#)

[News: Statewide](#)

[Off The Beaten Track](#)

[Open Threads](#)

[Political Trends](#)

[Rumor Has It](#)

[Statehouse: Becky Skillman](#)

[Statehouse: Connie Nass](#)

[Statehouse: Dave Thomas](#)

[Statehouse: Jane Jankowski](#)

[Statehouse: Joel Silverman](#)

[Statehouse: Karl Browning](#)

[Statehouse: Kyle Hupfer](#)

[Statehouse: Mark Lubbers](#)

[Statehouse: Mickey Maurer](#)

[Statehouse: Mitch Daniels](#)

[Statehouse: Mitch Roob](#)

[Statehouse: Nate Feltman](#)

[Statehouse: Robert Carter](#)

[Statehouse: Ron Stiver](#)

[Statehouse: Steve Carter](#)

[Statehouse: Suellen Reed](#)

begin next Aug. 20 in about 10 counties surrounding Marion and to last about three months. It would expand to southern Indiana in November 2007, to northwest Indiana in January 2008 and finally to central Indiana during March 2008.

"FSSA spokesman Dennis Rosebrough said the timeline in the contract was tentative and represented targets for IBM and its coalition of partners.

"We are not going to be held to some artificial timeline - bottom line,' he said. 'Progress on the timeline will be based on our successful implementation in one region before we move on to the next.'

"On Tuesday, a day before Gov. Mitch Daniels announced the IBM contract, O'Callaghan sent letters to him and to U.S. Department of Agriculture administrators requesting a pilot program lasting at least six months. The USDA, which administers the food stamp program, must approve the state's plan so Indiana gains full compensation of its share of program costs.

"The letters asked that the state collect data and have it independently analyzed to determine the privatization's effect on benefit recipients and township trustees, as well as community-based organizations such as food pantries and soup kitchens, which might be pressured to give out more meals and groceries if problems with the transition deny people food stamps.

"It's difficult to get enough food to meet the demand we have now,' said O'Callaghan, director of social justice at Lafayette Urban Ministry, a nonprofit that helps needy children and families.

"Michael Reinke, executive director of the Indiana Coalition of Housing and Homeless Issues, questioned whether benefit applicants and recipients would be able to master new ways of accessing their cases - by e-mail, the Internet, call centers and faxes - as quickly as the state and IBM anticipate. Most cases now are updated during office visits.

"FSSA risks a logistical disaster similar to that of the rollout this year of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles' new computer system, Reinke said. The BMV's troubles created long lines at license branches and problems for police agencies."

Nov 30, 2006 at 06:19 PM | [Permalink](#)

[Statehouse: Tim Berry](#)

[Statehouse: Todd Rokita](#)

[Statehouse: Tom Sharp](#)

[What's New With TDW](#)

ARCHIVES

[February 26, 2007](#)

[February 25, 2007](#)

[February 23, 2007](#)

[February 22, 2007](#)

[February 21, 2007](#)

[February 20, 2007](#)

[February 19, 2007](#)

[February 18, 2007](#)

[February 17, 2007](#)

[February 16, 2007](#)

COMMENTS

Interestingly enough, one out of six Hoosiers are directly using FSSA - most have other family members that will be watching the transition and its failures closely. Afflicting the afflicted is a recipe for political disaster !

Posted by: [Wilson46201](#) | [Nov 30, 2006 at 06:39 PM](#)

Document that some of us down South just read states that Rollout will start in Grant County. IBM and the Caseworkers will work side by side. When the company is able to handle 10% of the caseload, they will be considered successful. They will then move down to Southern counties and try to work up to 25%, move up North and strive for 45% and then on to Central Indiana, which includes Marion Co. There are 2 "Main Service Centers", and 6 "Minor Centers" scattered around the State.

Oh Yes, once the Caseworkers are IBM employees they will eventually lose their jobs to lower paid and qualified people. When that happens, Mitch can still say that no State Worker lost their job....

Posted by: | [Nov 30, 2006 at 06:42 PM](#)

Does anyone know if this is the same Mitch Daniels that is now our governor and is pushing some great programs to save us all a bunch of money:

Mitch Daniels was the director of the Office of Management and Budget from January 2001 through June of 2003. In this capacity, he was responsible for releasing the initial budget estimates for the Iraq War which he pegged at \$ to \$60 billion. The estimated cost of the war, including the full economic ramifications, is approaching \$1 trillion. [MSNBC, 3/17/06]

Mitch Daniels had said the war would be an "affordable endeavor" and rejected an estimate by the chief White House economic adviser that the war would cost between \$100 billion and \$200 billion as "very, very high." [Christian Science Monitor, 1/10/06]

Posted by: [Dean Adams](#) | [Dec 01, 2006 at 11:33 PM](#)

Yes, he's the one and the same. He managed to aggravate more people on the hill in less time than anyone ever. He was so beloved that they couldn't wait to find a way to get rid of him! So he was sent back here as Bush's Man Mitch to run for governor. Too bad Hoosiers bought it, hook, line and sinker!

Posted by: | [Dec 02, 2006 at 07:59 AM](#)

I work in the private sector (in IT) for a large company that outsources to both IBM and ACS. IBM's performance has been horrible and they have been in a 'probationary' status with us for nearly a year. We had to establish a new team within our organization whose sole function is to monitor IBM's performance and oversee their delivery per contractual agreements and the 'get well' plan we put together to overcome the problems they created by poor performance. We have had better luck with ACS but the team who

supports us are former employees who became ACS employees in part of 'the deal'. They care about their jobs and deliver on most of their promises.

Posted by: | [Dec 02, 2006 at 09:35 AM](#)

POST A COMMENT

If you have a TypeKey or TypePad account, please [Sign In](#)

Name:

Email Address:

URL:

Remember personal info?

Comments:

Preview

Post