# Have you had a "check-up" recently? Understanding Treasury Diagnostics



Mark K. Webster, CPA, CCM, Partner
Robert Novaria, Partner
Treasury Alliance Group LLC
Specialists in Payments and Treasury Consulting



### **Risk Assessment Survey**

- We have positive pay on all of our bank accounts.
- We have ACH blocks or filters on all of our bank accounts.
- We reconcile all of our bank accounts daily.
- We have current agreements on file for all of our bank accounts.
- We have confirmed the signers on all of our bank accounts within the last twelve months.
- We use dual authentication on all funds transfers.
- We have reviewed and updated our A/P vendor master within the last twelve months.
- We request W-9s from all new vendors.
- We have compared our A/P vendor master to our employee file within the last twelve months.
- We require the use of strong passwords for all log-ons.
- All passwords must be changed at least every 90 days.
- We have installed anti-virus software on all of our machines including staff equipment used for business and the subscriptions are current and set to auto update.
- We review and update our risk management policies annually
- We have conducted a treasury risk assessment within the last year.



### And the survey says...

# Score 1 point every time you answered no

- 1-3: You should consider changing some things
- 4-6: Your operations could use some improvements
- 7-9: Your company is at risk
- 10+ Are you sure you haven't had a loss and just don't know it yet?



# **Agenda**

- Introduction
- Types of Diagnostics
  - Treasury Risk Assessment
  - Treasury Operations Review
  - Treasury Diagnostic
- Closing thoughts
- Q&A



# **INTRODUCTION**



### When did you last hear

I'm in perfect health ...

I haven't had a check-up in years!



### **Check-up**

check-up noun \'chek-,əp\:
an examination of a person
made by a doctor to make sure
the person is healthy; also: an
instance of looking at the parts
of a machine to make sure it is
working properly

Merriam Webster Online Dictionary



### Why a periodic check-up?

- Check-ups help confirm that everything is OK and catch problems before they become an major issue – or a result in a loss
- Problems typically develop over time
- A second set of eyes is always helpful
- New ideas and alternate approaches can be valuable
- Policy requirement
- Senior management tool



### **Treasury Risk Assessment**

- Focuses on operational risk in the context of overall treasury operations
- Primary goal is to identify potential risk and recommend mitigation
- Operational improvements are often a side benefit



### **Treasury Review**

- A high-level review that focuses on the efficiency and effectiveness of existing treasury operations – including risk
- Primary objective is to identify potential improvements to existing treasury processes and procedures
- May identify potential operating risk as part of the review
- Often self-funding
- Typically takes a day or two and may not include on-site reviews.



# **Treasury Diagnostic**

- Deeper dive into existing treasury operations
- Quantifies and prioritizes recommended improvements
- Typically takes several weeks and always includes on-site reviews and interviews.
- Provides a road map for future improvement



# TREASURY RISK ASSESSMENT



# Fraud is major problem

- The Association for Financial Professionals (AFP) reports that 74% of organizations were exposed to payments fraud in 2016
- The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) reported that the typical organization loses 5% of revenue to fraud each year
- ACFE also reported that smaller organizations suffer disproportionately large losses
- Both groups found that the presence of antifraud controls reduced losses.

Source: 2017 AFP Payments Fraud and Control Survey ACFE 2014 Global Fraud Study



# But not the only problem

- Operational Risk
- Counterparty Risk
- Regulatory Risk
- Interest Rate Risk
- FX Risk
- Financial Institution Risk

• ...



### **Risk Assessment**

- Focuses on identifying areas of potential risk in a company's treasury operations
- Typically includes a review of existing policies and procedures as well as an on-site review
- Issue is risk not operational efficiency
- Goal is to identify potential problems and fix them – not assign blame



### Points to consider

- Due to relatively recent regulatory and legal changes, companies are exposed to an increased share of payment risk
- This is especially true if reasonable controls are absent or not working
- Planned changes in card processing will also increase corporate responsibility for card fraud
- Many insurance companies now suggest, and may require, periodic risk assessments



# TREASURY REVIEW

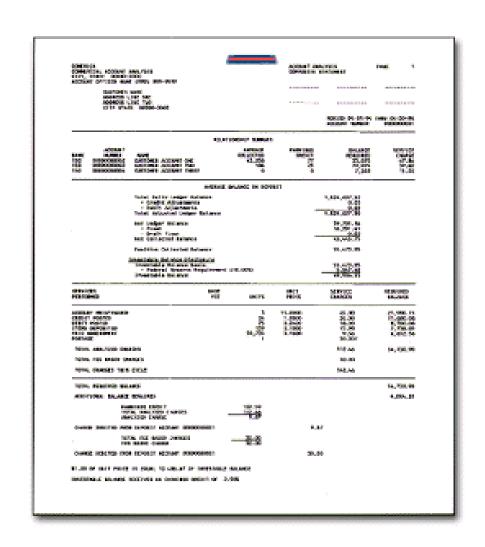


### What do I get?

- A high-level review that focuses on the efficiency and effectiveness of existing treasury operations
- Typically takes a day or two and may not include on-site reviews.
- Primary objective is to identify potential improvements to existing operations but may identify risk issues as well
- May focus on a specific area
  - Receipts
  - Disbursements
  - Reconcilement
- Often self-funding

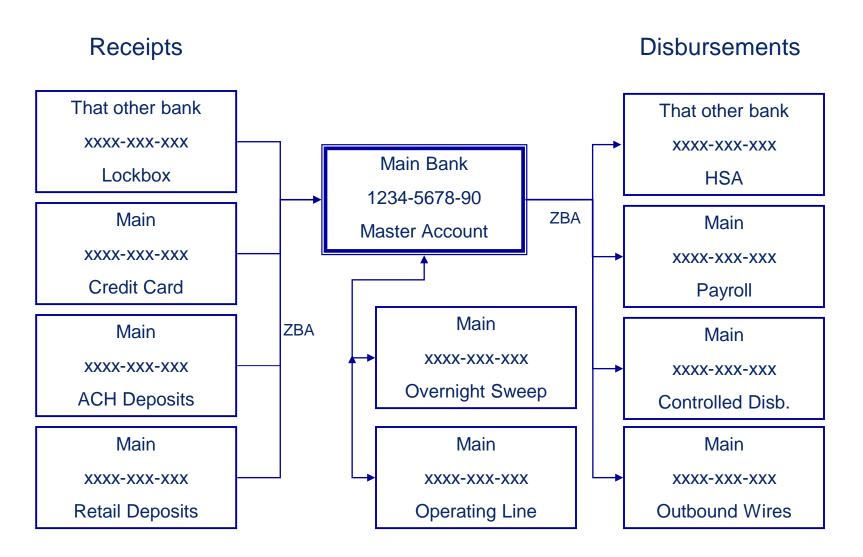
### **Assess the situation**

- Starts with your account analyses
- How many accounts do you have?
- How much are you paying for bank services?
- Are your fees reasonable?
- Are there excess idle balances?





# **Funds Flow Diagram**





### **Assess the situation**

- How does money move through your company?
- What systems/processes are critical to that movement?
- What banking services do you currently use?
- Which (and how many) banks do you do business with?
- How much time do you spend on treasury management?
- What's your biggest headache?



### **Look for improvements**

- Are you paying for services you're not using?
- Are you leaving excess balances lying idle?
- Do you have too many accounts?
- Do you have the right accounts?
- Are there new services that will make their life easier?
- What are their peers/competitors doing?
- How can you fix their "big" headache?



### Develop an action plan

- Prioritize the recommendations
- Look for "low hanging fruit"
- Keep it realistic
- Make it self funding if possible



# TREASURY DIAGNOSTIC



#### What's the difference

- A treasury diagnostic is a deeper dive into treasury operations.
- Typically takes several weeks and always includes on-site reviews and interviews.
- Quantifies and prioritizes recommended improvements
- Provides a road map for improvement
- May be done in response to a specific problem
- Often done as part of a larger engagement such as a banking RFP



### **Assess the situation**

- Understand what's being done today
  - The "As-Is"
- Visualize the desired or ideal situation
  - The "To Be"
- How do we get there?
  - -What are the gaps?



### **Typical Deliverables**

- An assessment of current treasury processes and procedures with suggestions for streamlining and improvement (as-is operations).
- A comparison of the as-is processes to commercial best practices.
- Assessment of treasury controls to ensure compliance with recognized best practices.
- Operational design for an end-state treasury structure, bank account architecture and banking services
- Identification of any "quick-win" recommendations
- Summary of technical, banking and human resource requirements, including cost-benefit analyses, for any recommended changes,
- Recommended next steps and high-level implementation plan.



# **CLOSING THOUGHTS**



### **Key Points**

- Your business needs a periodic check-up just as much as you do
- Effective controls can mitigate risk, but only if they're being used
- Successes are as important as problems
- Would you cancel your insurance policies just because you haven't had a recent problem?

#### **Questions and Certification**



To obtain a certificate of completion for CPE or other financial certification please go to treasuryalliance.com/webinars/slide s.pdf and treasuryalliance.com/webinars/cpe.pdf. These urls will also be sent to you in an separate email about an hour from now



Join fellow alumni from this and other Treasury Alliance Group programs in networking about the issues discussed and simply keeping in touch. Go to:

http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/81318/37CD3F56BA8F



### **Contact Information**

Mark K. Webster, CPA, CCM, Partner Phone (216) 932-1678 mark.webster@treasuryalliance.com

Robert Novaria, Partner Phone (630) 403-2123 Bob.novaria@treasuryalliance.com

Treasury Alliance Group LLC www.treasuryalliance.com

