Integrated Administrative Data for Early Childhood Iowa: A Governance Model to inform Policy and Program Collaboration

Healther L. Rouse
Cassandra J. Dorius
Jeffery Anderson
Elizabeth JD Richey

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Abstract

In response to demands on public systems to do more, do better, and cost less, the value of integrated administrative data systems (IDS) for social policy is increasing (Fantuzzo & Culhane, 2016). This is particularly relevant in programming for young children where services are historically fragmented, disconnected from systems serving school-aged children, and siloed among health, human services, and education agencies. Guided by the vision that Iowa's early childhood system will be effectively and efficiently coordinated to support healthy families, we are developing an early childhood IDS to address this disconnection and facilitate relevant and actionable social policy research.

Iowa's IDS is a state-university partnership that acknowledges the need for agencies to retain control of their data while enabling it to be integrated across systems for social policy research. The innovative governance model deliberately incorporates procedures for stakeholder engagement at critical tension points between executive leaders, program managers, researchers, and practitioners. Standing committees (Governance Board, Data Stewardship, and Core team) authorize and implement the work of the IDS, while ad-hoc committees are solicited for specific projects to advise and translate research into practice.

This paper will articulate the Iowa IDS governance model that was informed by means tested principles articulated by the Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy Network. It will include our collaborative development process; articulated mission and principles that guided discussions about legal authorization, governance, and use cases; and the establishment of governance committees to implement our vision for ethical and efficient use of administrative data for social policy.

Comments

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Heather Rouse, Cassandra Dorius, Jeff Anderson, Elizabeth Richey, Kelly Davydov, & the ECI Integrated Data System Taskforce

November 13th, 2018
Desired Results:

“empower the creation of collaborations to support children 0-5 through a primary focus on working together to improve efficiency & effectiveness”

(Iowa Code 256i.2)
ECI Strategic Plan:

- Effective communication & coordination among multiple systems
- A systems-informed approach to policy & programming
- Evidence-based services that reflect good stewardship of public investments
Development Timeline

YEAR 1
- ECI Area Board Engagement
- ECI Results Accountability Workgroup
- Mini-Summit of Stakeholders

YEAR 2
- Board Approved IDS Taskforce
- Vision/Mission/Principles
- Join AISPU

YEAR 3
- Data/Policy Meetings
- Demonstration Project
- Board Support for Governance
- DSAs & MOA

The First DSAs took 2 months from “ask” to “authorized”
Vision for Iowa IDS:

Iowa’s early childhood system will be effectively and efficiently **coordinated** among health, social service, and education agencies to support healthy and successful families. This work will be **informed by actionable intelligence** derived from a **statewide integrated data system** that comprehensively identifies and addresses the needs of Iowa’s young children and their families.
Simultaneous IDS Development Work:

Establish an IDS governance structure that ensures ETHICAL USE

- State maintains control
- High standards for PRIVACY protection & rigorous science
- Strong communication and participation THROUGHOUT the inquiry process to ensure analytics are USED to meet our ECI mission

Develop Valuable Demonstrations of IDS use
State-University Partnership Model

- State maintains control of the “use” of data
- University staffs the infrastructure with a flexible capacity to expand or contract depending on IDS project demands
- Capitalizes on ISU’s land-grant mission and expertise in data management, analytics, security
- “3rd Party” approach for data integration that meets federal and state legal requirements
- Political & economic sustainability
Data Systems “in progress”

**Department of Public Health:**
- Vital Records (Birth/death/marriage)
- Infant Screening System
- DAISEY (home visiting)
- Lead Registry
- WIC
- TavHEALTH (mat/child health)

**Department of Human Services:**
- Child Care Subsidies
- Child Welfare
- Child Support Recovery
- Income Maintenance/Eligibility
- SNAP
- TANF
- FaDSS (2 Gen program)

**Department of Education:**
- Prek-12 (enroll, achieve, attend)
- Special Education (IDEA A, B, & C)
Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

- Establishes the “business use” for the IDS
- Outlines all policies and procedures (who, what, when, how)
- Authorizes the IDS Core Team to implement the work on behalf of Departments

Data Sharing Agreements
One per Data-contributing agency. Authorizes agencies to share identified data with the IDS (i.e., ISU) for purposes specifically outlined in the MOA

Assures federal & state provisions for protection of private and confidential data

Data Use Licenses
Individual for each approved project. Establishes permissions for “users” to access de-identified, restricted use datasets for circumscribed, time limited purposes approved by the Data Stewardship Committee
Governance Board
Department Directors & University Leaders
Overall project oversight, direction, and authorization

IDS Resource Center
- “implementers”
- Staff meetings & maintain processes and procedures
- Capitalize on University infrastructure for data security & technical expertise
- Expand and contract as needed to meet project demands

Data Stewardship Committee
- “decision-makers” for project authorization & translation
- Appointed by Board
- Create a culture of “data use” between departments
- Select ad-hoc committee members (below)

Scientific Reviewers

Data Experts

Project Advisory Teams
Phased Approach to IDS Demonstration Study

Who are children 0-5?

Birth Records + Kindergarten Enrollment

“Touch Points” Nature and Extent of Early Risks

Services Utilization: Patterns & Predictors

+ Lead, Maltx, WIC, SNAP, TANF, FaDSS, DAISEY, TavHealth

Comprehensive, coordinated, & effective services for children 0-5
Challenges and Keys to Success?
Relationships
Integrated Data System (IDS) Taskforce:
Jeff Anderson (DOM), Tammi Christ (DHS), Kelly Davydov (DHR), Cassandra Dorius (ISU), Marion Kresse (BooST, ECI-RA co-chair), Tom Rendon (DOE), Betsy Richey (DPH), Heather Rouse (ISU), Amanda Winslow (DOE)

Heather Rouse  Hlrouse@iastate.edu