California Health & Human Services Agency
Center for Data Insights and Innovation
Data Exchange Framework Technical Advisory Subcommittee
Meeting Summary
Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Attendance

Facilitators: Rim Cothren (Independent Consultant to CDII), DeeAnne McCallin (CalHHS/CDII), Cindy Bero (Manatt Health Strategies)

Subcommittee Members Present: Hans Buitendijk, Cassie-Ann Bush, Michael Marchant, Chris Muir, Ken Riomales, Jess Sanford, Hanan Scrapper, Joe Sullivan, Brian Thomas

Subcommittee Members Not Present: Sarah DeSilvey, Mohit Ghose, Prashant Gupta, John Helvey, Kimberly Krause, Hanan Scrapper, Gregg Smith-McCurdy

Members of the Public: approximately 20 public attendees joined this meeting via Zoom video conference or through call-in functionality.

Key Takeaways

Notes aim to elevate major points made by meeting participants and may not be a comprehensive accounting of all points made. Meeting materials, full video recording, transcription, and public comments may be found on the Data Exchange Framework (DxF) webpage.

Technical Standards Evolution

Rim Cothren, Independent HIE Consultant, CDII, reviewed the summary of key takeaways from TASC meeting #1A on March 5, 2024.

Member comments included:

- Participants may choose to use technical standards above and beyond the minimum required standards established in policies and procedures, and thus establishing a 'ceiling' for standards adoption may not be necessary.
- Consider replacing the terms "social service organization" and "non-traditional providers" with "non-HIPAA covered entity" to ensure clarity.
- Though the Interoperability Standards Advisory (ISA) may recognize standards ahead of Federal certification or exchange requirements, CDII should expect United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) to catch up to ISA in the near future.

Rim Cothren solicited the Subcommittee's feedback on a straw model process for considering new and maturing National and Federally Adopted Standards for potential inclusion in the DxF.

Member comments included:

- Federal standard implementation time windows often take between 12 to 24 months. Recommend an 18 to 24 month time window for an organization to implement a standard that is adopted by the DxF.

- Consider adding Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability (HTI) rules as an additional input on standards to be discussed by the Technical Standards Subcommittee.
- Participants with relatively less technical experience, such as some social service organizations, may require additional time to adopt new technical standards that may become required under the DxF.
- Consider incorporating a provision into the DxF Policy and Procedures to enable organizations to temporarily suspend standards advancement in the event of newly introduced standards.
- The Technical Standards Subcommittee may need more than two or three meetings to discuss potential new standards.
  - Recommend at least six to twelve meetings of the Technical Standards Subcommittee depending on the volume of standards being considered.
- Many healthcare organizations rely on the electronic medical record (EMR) and vendors to track compliance with new and evolving standards.
- The Gravity Project develops standards for information on social services data exchange and may be a helpful resource for the DxF.
- The DxF standards adoption process should be used to implement federal standards that have not yet been specified under the DxF as opposed to generating entirely new standards.
- CDII should consider developing a landscape assessment of what standards are available before considering which standards should be adopted under the DxF.
- Regulations typically establish a minimally acceptable level of standard adoption due to the time required to vet and advance requirements in law.
- Recommend CDII be as detailed as possible about the technology to be used if it establishes a standard 'floor' and 'ceiling' for standards adoption and use under the DxF.

Next Steps
CDII to:
- Consider the feedback provided by the TASC.
- Post meeting materials to the DxF webpage.
- Document the technical standards advancement process, considering TASC comments and input, to be adopted by CDII
- Cancel the next meeting on April 2, 2024, given feedback received on technical standards evolution to date.
- Share meeting dates and times for the next set of TASC meetings focusing on ADT transactions (anticipated to begin in late April 2024).

Members to:
- Send any additional comments to DxF@chhs.ca.gov.
- Monitor inboxes for notification of upcoming meeting dates and pre-read meeting materials.