PROJECT UPDATE: Early Childhood Iowa Integrated Data System (IDS)

June 2020. IDS is authorized by the ECI State Board and Department Directors and advised by the IDS Taskforce:
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Early Childhood Iowa VISION for Iowa's Integrated Data System (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.

Overview: In 2019, our IDS gained considerable momentum with support from a federal Preschool Development Grant B-5 (PDG) and two IDPH contracts with federal funds from HRSA and CDC. Work included a comprehensive statewide needs assessment; tests and refinements of governance protocols (see page 2) and data integration algorithms; and stakeholder engagement in communications strategies to ensure IDS data are <u>used</u> to inform strategic planning and evidence-based decision-making. Findings from IDS analytic projects are being used to inform strategic planning and policy changes, including infusion in *We are ECI: Strategic Plan 2019-2022*, the 2020 Iowa Risk Assessment for MIECHV and to support prenatal enrollment in home visiting programs, and to support targeted family substance use prevention and intervention initiatives.

2020 Update (January – June):
- Findings from IDS projects continue to be shared, and information is being gathered about how stakeholders translate data into decisions and what types of trainings and ongoing discussions are needed to improve our data culture of "use" in an evidence-based decision-making framework.
- IDS Taskforce and Results Accountability workgroup are gathering agency priorities for cross-systems analytics to inform IDS capacity building efforts to expand datasets in response to agency needs.
- ISU team is working with IT leadership at the university and within state departments to build and test a new security platform with layered access and authentication protocols.
- Communications firm Model Farm built a marketing plan including an IDS name, brand messaging, visual identity, and website to improve outreach and engagement with broader ECI stakeholders.
- IDS collaborators continue to seek funding to support ongoing analytic needs of agencies (e.g., continued analysis of the ECI Longitudinal Study that was initiated with PDG funds), including a recently submitted Administration for Children and Families proposal to incorporate Head Start grantee data in the longitudinal study and exploration of additional funds that could be leveraged from federal grants and contracts to support analysis and evaluation of family support and early intervention programs.
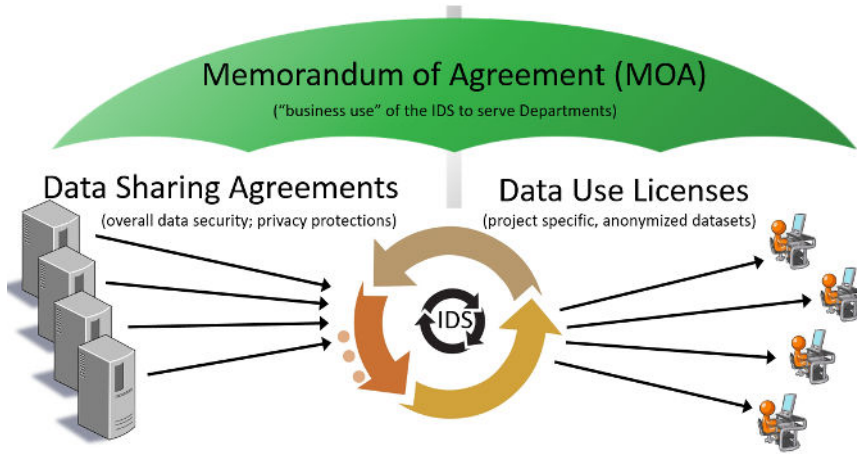
Anticipated Next Steps:
- Continued analysis of home visiting and family support data and integration and analysis of Head Start grantee data with the ECI Longitudinal Study to investigate family and service system factors that relate to better outcomes for children and families.
- ECI IDS Stakeholder kickoff event to celebrate successes and share the IDS marketing plan designed to improve access to information about IDS and policy-relevant findings resulting from its use
- Finalize revised legal agreements that reflect approved governance processes (see page 2) and agency priorities for data use that include expanded data capacities aligned with identified needs
- Implementation of the improved data security platform and role-based user access protocols

ECI IDS Goal: ECI IDS is a university-state partnership that supports timely and cost-efficient evaluation and analytics using integrated data across state agencies. It is designed to securely share data to a centralized linking hub (referred to as a "data lake"), where anonymized datasets can be created for department-approved projects using collaboratively agreed upon governance policies and procedures.

Governance Approach for Iowa's IDS:
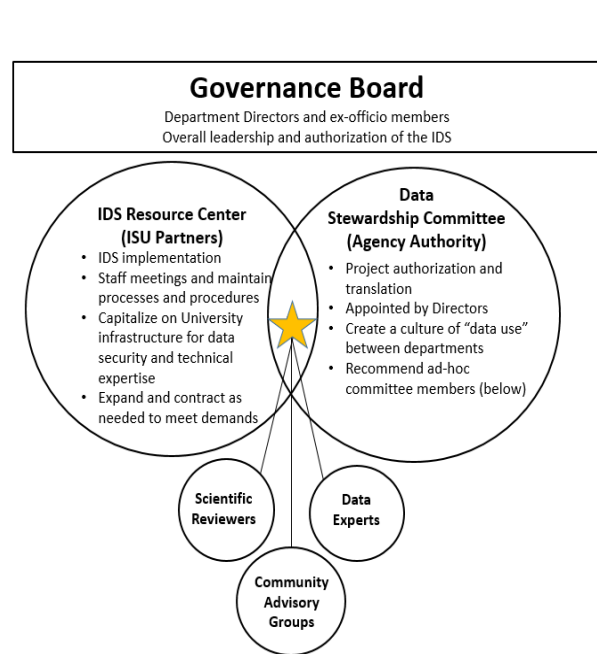
Figure 1. Legal Structures

Memorandum of Agreement: umbrella agreement authorizing the IDS to exist in service of the ECI mission.
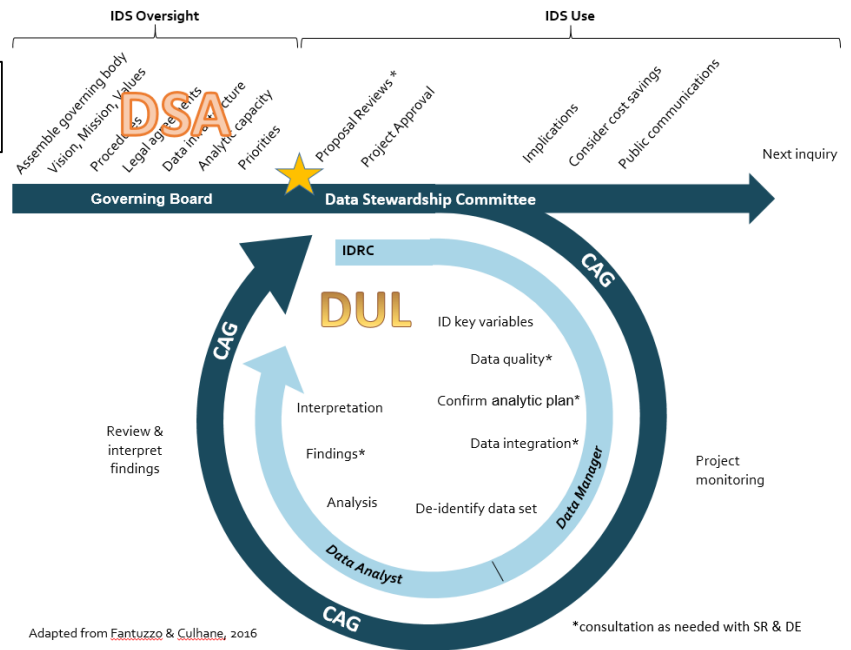
Data Sharing Agreements (DSA): individual agreements between each department and Iowa State University (as a business agent to operationalize the system as outlined in the MOA) allowing secure transfer of data following strict policies and procedures for all data use in accord with the MOA.

Data Use Licenses (DUL): time-limited agreements for each approved project to use anonymized, integrated data to answer departmental approved policy and evaluation questions.

Figure 2. Working Groups

Figure 3. Project Use Processes

The success of a statewide longitudinal IDS relies on the expertise and contributions of key leaders and stakeholders. Working groups facilitate this collaborative effort by fulfilling a requisite role in shaping and executing the vision and mission (see Figure 2). The governing body includes three standing workgroups (Governance Board, IDS Resource Center, and Data Stewardship Committee) and three ad-hoc groups commissioned to support individual projects before and after approval (Scientific Reviewers, Data Experts, and Community Advisory Groups). Every project follows a standard set of processes from idea initiation to the dissemination of results (see Figure 3), that includes agency feedback through each governance committee from project approval through project completion.