Early Childhood Iowa State Board Update

Program Status Report

Reporting Period: January – May 2023
Report Date: June 1, 2023

I2D2 is authorized by the ECI State Board and Department Directors and advised by the I2D2 Data Stewardship Committee: Heather Rouse & Cassandra Dorius (ISU); Amanda Winslow (ECI; HHS); Marcus Johnson-Miller & Kelsey Feller (Public Health; HHS); Ryan Page (Child Care; HHS); Jay Pennington & Monica Garner (Education); Wendy Greenman & Donna Burkett (Workforce).

> **Early Childhood Iowa VISION for I2D2:**
> *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: Iowa has invested in developing and refining an integrated data system since 2015, with full implementation and completion of three demonstration projects funded by the Administration for Children and Families (Preschool Development Grant) and the Iowa Department of Public Health in 2019. Between 2019 and 2022, advancements in technology, governance, and communications were made possible through additional state contracts, university awards, and federal research grants. Goals for 2023 include legal and technology updates, securing additional data sources that address identified state priorities, advancing the public-facing data dashboard, and developing training opportunities for data use.

Activities Update for the Current Reporting Period:

- Data Stewardship Committee approved an extension of the ECI Longitudinal Study (ECILS) to include annual updates of key indicators used for the ECI Statewide Annual Report. These indicators will also be updated annually in the IA Data Drive dashboard.

- Local Area Directors helped I2D2 analysts design an annual local report that pulls approved indicators from IA Data Drive into an easy-to-use report aggregated by local area that they can use for their community plans.

- The ISU Security Team tested and approved updated security protocols for I2D2's secure virtual platform.

- We developed a Data Stewardship Committee Smartsheet dashboard to facilitate project management including project documentation, meeting agenda/minutes, and tracking of legal agreements and data holding updates.
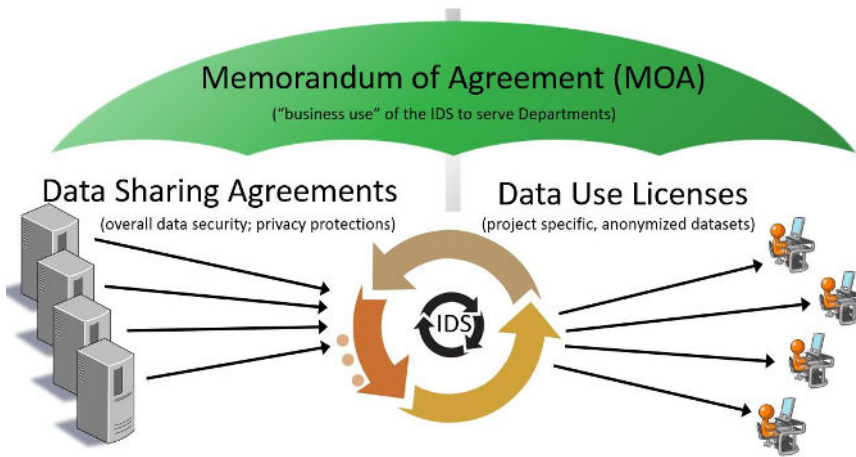
Update on Ongoing Analytic Projects:

1. **Early Childhood Iowa Longitudinal Study (ECILS)** [Data included: Birth records, CCA, DE–K, DAISEY, *Head Start*]. With a second round of federal funding from the ACF Office of Planning Research and Evaluation and a state grant from the IDE Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO), we are analyzing Head Start data to study children's multiple experiences 0–5. This work is informing the HSSCO 5-year Strategic Plan.

2. **Multiple Risks and Families in Home Visiting** [Data: Birth records, DAISEY, CCA, DE–K, *Head Start*]. Entering its sixth year of funding in partnership with the Iowa MIECHV team (led by Janet Horras), this work focuses on understanding programmatic differences in home visiting and family support access and outcomes. Current work includes streamlining and aligning annual reporting on home visiting success, evaluating needs and service patterns for families living in areas of the state that have experienced birthing hospital unit closures, and studying child and family outcomes related to timing of enrollment in home visiting programs (e.g., prenatal vs. postnatal enrollment).

3. **Iowa Workforce Study** [no current I2D2 data]. Funded by the Iowa AEYC, this study was designed to replicate and extend the 2016 Child Care Workforce study documenting strengths and challenges within our child care workforce. A key component of the study was a data discovery process to document potential administrative datasets that could facilitate future workforce studies in a more comprehensive and less costly way than current survey, interview, and focus group approaches. Findings and recommendations are currently being drafted and reviewed by an Community Advisory Group composed of representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services, Early Childhood Iowa, Child Care Resource and Referral, and Iowa Workforce Development.

Anticipated Activities in the Next Reporting Period ~ Directors and Board Input Needed:

- Data Stewardship Committee will review and update the I2D2 Governance Plan to ensure procedures align with ongoing work and include revisions to incorporate Department/Agency process changes. *Department Directors and Board Members may reach out to Committee members for input and feedback.*

- Annual data updates to all I2D2 data holdings will continue throughout the summer – with anticipated completion by September to ensure available data to complete the ECI Annual Report and IA Data Drive annual updates, and other approved ongoing projects. *Please support Department/Agency data team members' involvement in these activities to ensure our data capacity is ready to complete approved projects that are in the pipeline for 2024.*

- I2D2 Website will be updated and revised to include broader descriptions of statewide priorities informed the Data Stewardship Committee work and recent reports of findings from ongoing approved projects. *Department Directors and Board Members may reach out to Committee members for input and feedback.*

- Executive leaders and legal teams will begin the process of renewing legal agreements to align with approved governance protocols, security updates, and prioritized uses of I2D2 for 2024.

- Findings from ongoing projects will be translated into program and policy briefs and vetted for sharing through project Community Advisory Groups and the Data Stewardship Committee. *Please reach out to Data Stewardship Committee members for input on communications.*

Governance Approach for I2D2:

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 ISU (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 questions.
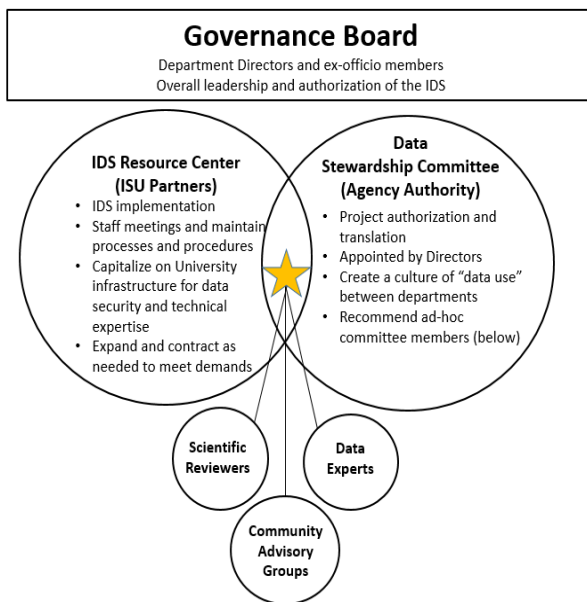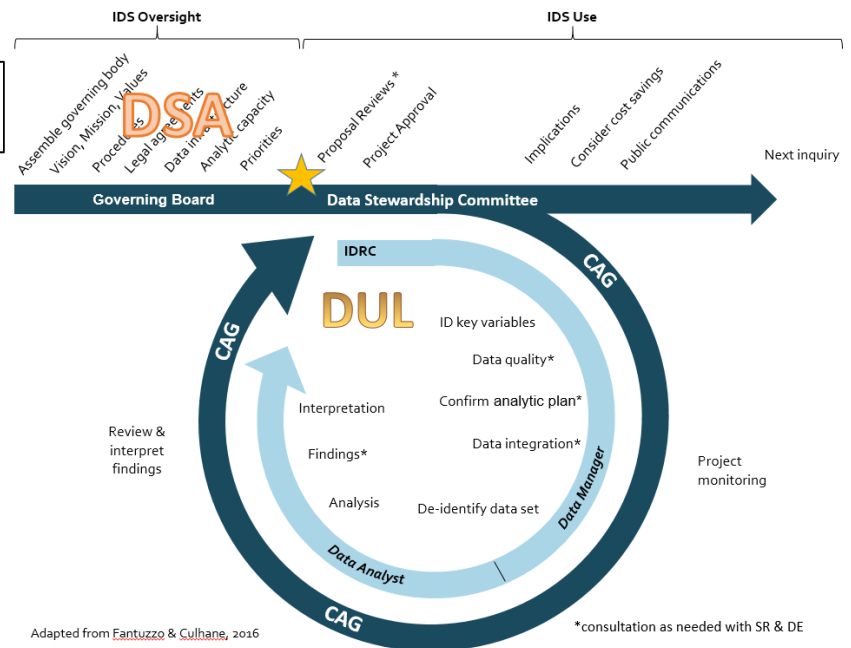
Figure 2. Working Groups

Figure 3. Project Use Processes

The success of I2D2 relies on the expertise and contributions of key leaders and stakeholders. Working groups facilitate collaboration 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 committees to support individual projects before and after approval (Scientific Reviewers, Data Experts, and Community Advisory Groups). Every project follows standard processes from idea-to-dissemination (see Figure 3), that includes agency feedback throughout.

For more information about any of these projects or I2D2 processes, please visit our website or contact us. Stay in touch via i2d2.iastate.edu or follow us on LinkedIn via the QR code.