

# Early Childhood Iowa State Board Update

## Program Status Report

Reporting Period: June – August 2023

Report Date: September 1, 2023

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

- The ECI FSSD Annual Report was completed using DAISEY data for fiscal year 2023 (7/01/2022 – 6/30/2023). This report contains summative information about families and children served in Iowa's family support programs and benchmark comparisons for programs across the state.
- Phase II of a birthing hospital closure analysis is underway that builds on previous work, *Access to Care, Outcomes, and Birthing Unit Closures: Results from a Mixed Method Study in Iowa* (Rouse et al, 2022). The goal is to examine prenatal care and birth outcomes focusing on counties where collaborative programming is supporting prenatal care to identify opportunities and continued needs.
- The ECI Results Accountability Workgroup, with Iowa MIECHV and Head Start program leadership, are discussing new indicators for IA Data Drive. Exploration is underway to identify relevant data sources that inform various federally required community risk and needs assessments and develop methods of connecting new indicators to the data dashboard.

- The Data Stewardship Committee is discussing current governance processes and systems for I2D2 prioritization with a goal of aligning to evolving state agency transitions. The committee is reexamining agency representatives, goals, and mission to ensure that I2D2 is fully responsive and integrated into the new organizational structure.
- Collaborations between ECI Results Accountability workgroup and the 2023 Iowa Workforce Study Advisory Group are examining statewide workforce data and generating recommendations for next steps to improve our ability to support child care workforce efforts.

### Ongoing Analytic Projects:

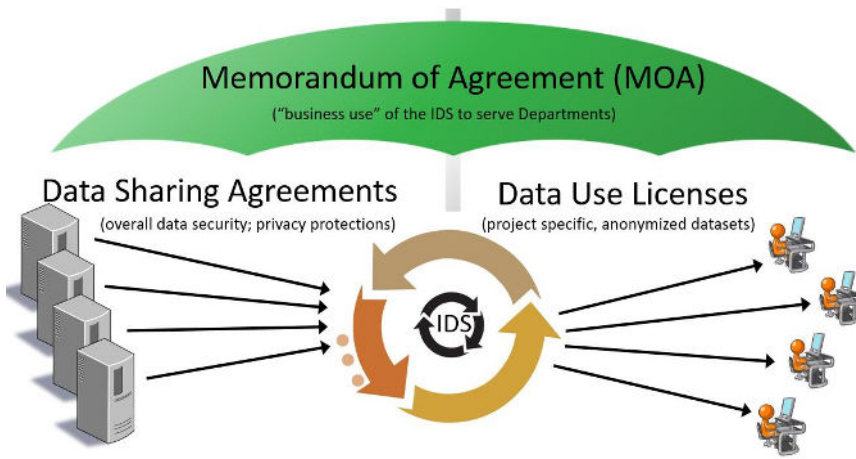
1. **Early Childhood Iowa Longitudinal Study (ECILS)** [Data included: Birth records, CCA, DE-K, DAISEY, *Head Start*]. With a second round of federal funding from the ACF Office of Planning Research and Evaluation (2022) and a state grant from the IDE Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO, 2023), integrated data are being used to analyze Head Start children's multiple experiences between birth and school entry. This work informed the HSSCO 5-year Strategic Plan and is being considered within current efforts to strengthen partnerships among Head Start and other child care and early intervention programs.
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, this work includes studying programmatic differences in home visiting and family support access and outcomes. Current work includes streamlining annual reporting on home visiting success, evaluating needs and service patterns for families living in counties that have experienced birthing hospital unit closures, and studying child and family outcomes related to the timing of enrollment in home visiting programs (e.g., prenatal vs. postnatal).
3. **2023 Iowa Child Care Workforce Study** [no current I2D2 data]. Funded by the Iowa AEYC, this study extends the 2016 Child Care Workforce study documenting strengths and challenges in our child care workforce. A key component was a data discovery process to document potential administrative datasets that would better facilitate future workforce studies.

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

- Data Stewardship Committee will 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/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

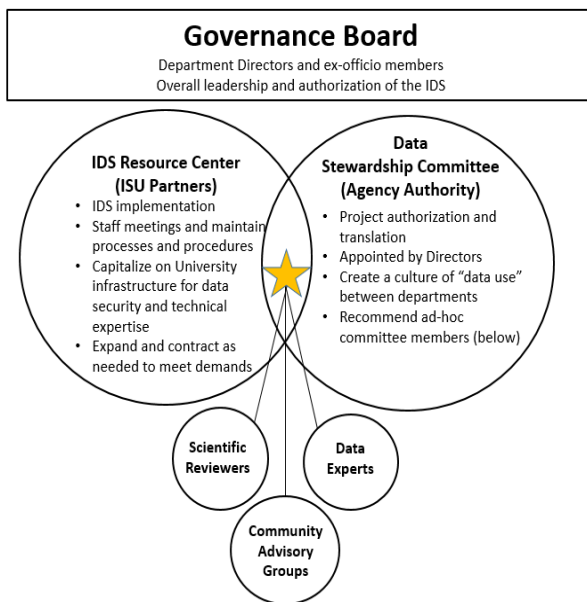
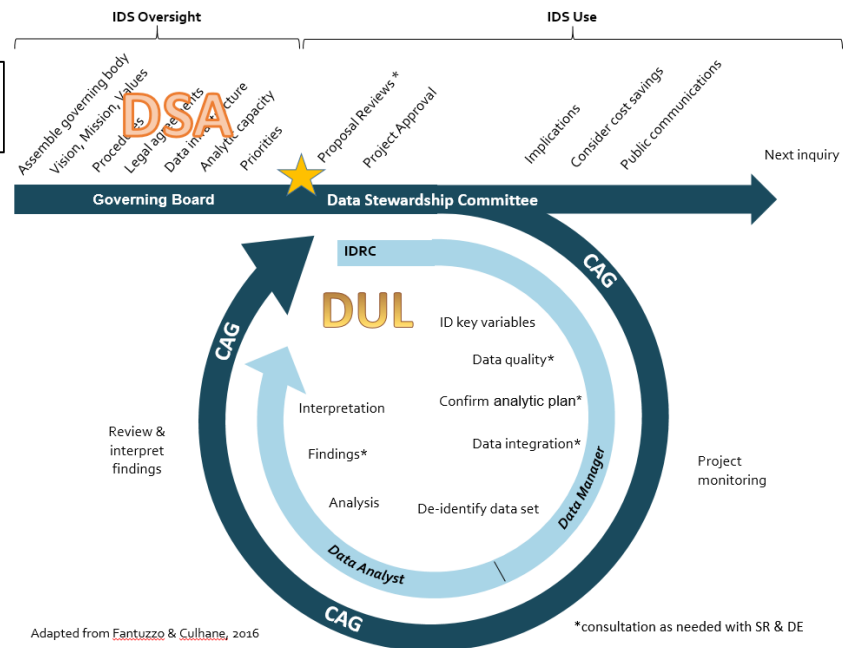


Figure 3. Project Use Processes



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](http://i2d2.iastate.edu) or follow us on LinkedIn via the QR code.