Data Systems Workgroup Summary

July 18, 2011 (9:00am-11:00am)

In Attendance:

Sarah Ellsworth, SDE; Marcie Cavacas, DPH; Lori Schroeder, DSS; Cynthia Burns, DCF in lieu of Beth Petroni; Sherri Sutera, Child Care 211; Sue Wilson, Charts-a-Course; Anne Littlefield, Shipman & Goodwin, Linda Goodman, DDS; Sheryl Horowitz, CAHS; and Sherry Linton-Massiah, SAC

Absent:

Beth Petroni, DCF and Walter Gilliam, Yale University

Discussion:

The meeting initiated with discussions about the Cross Agency Unique Identifier Map form that was distributed for members to complete. The form requested agencies to respond to questions of, 1) Whether unique identifiers are used by the agency, 2) Who is the id limited to, 3) Who is excluded from this id, 4) How are ids defined (e.g. randomly or intentionally), 5) At what point is the id generated (e.g. birth, pre-school entry), 6) Trigger event for activation/deactivation, 7) Are ids linked to other ids and if so, how? These questioned were framed in reference to a child id, a program id and/or staff id.

Agencies are working on completing the form, with some request for clarification. DPH shared a range of databases they currently work with, including,

Vital Records

- Accounts for births and deaths. Have data by birth certificate number.

Immunization Registry (Moving to a new application called MAVEN)

- This data collection process will include birth certificate numbers and an additional assigned id number.

- Info is shared with LEAs on paper only. LEA nurse puts in file at LEA, no electronic record.

- DPH has applied for interoperability with the electronic health records so that health care providers will be able to send the immunization records to DPH electronically in the future.

<u>Newborn Screening</u>

- Data on genetic and metabolic screening obtained through heel sticks

- Data on hearing screening of newborns

- A birth defects registry and a lead registry

(All of this is moving to MAVEN and will have a case id as well as the birth certificate number.)

<u>Home Visiting</u>

- Under the new home visiting grants, there will be a database created. It is unknown what id numbers will be used.

<u>School Based Health Centers</u>

- Use SDE town codes and building codes for program ID#s. Any child information is de-identified

<u>Child Care Licensing</u>

- Has a new database with programs identified through their license number

- No ids or information available for exempt programs

- Head teacher data is given to Charts-a-Course, who then assigns an id number and puts on an Excel spreadsheet (no charge to DPH). Charts a Course takes the applications and the data goes back to DPH.

- Directors have to have their CEUs tracked – CAC is not doing this yet.

<u>DPH Professional Licensing</u>

- All licensed therapists, nurses, etc. are tracked by their name and license number, but people who are licensed in more than one field would have multiple license numbers.

<u>DPH Unknowns</u>

- It is unknown if there's any listing or data base of health consultants

- It is also unknown if there's a list of med admin trainers, and there is no required med admin curriculum for trainers to use.

As evidenced by the multiple databases being utilized by DPH, the group confirmed the challenge of multiple models of information exchange at play. The point was raised that the National Information Exchange Model is very dependent on the assignment of unique identifiers.

Linda informed the group the workgroup will be partnering with the P-20 Commission to utilize training and technical assistance to identify the data system infrastructure that would assist in creating a data continuum.

Members of the group articulated the caution with releasing information is due to the sensitivity of the information being collected. DPH representative indicated they have established an internal group to look more closely at data sharing and FERPA compliance.

Group reviewed concepts for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and reviewed the first draft developed by workgroup co-chair. The group agreed that the MOU should address the significance of unique identifiers to establish a data continuum, how the shared data will be used to promote interagency sharing and effectiveness, the overall plan for interoperability, and should capture the tasks and agencies to sign on.

The point was raised that the Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge funding opportunity amplifies the urgency of developing the data system being discussed.

The group reviewed the open indicators "wish list" developed by the Jim Farnum and the Data Collaborative that aims at assisting local communities in their planning and data access through aggregate de-identified zip code level data.

Additional questions were raised, referencing the last paragraph of the draft MOU, concerning what information is going to be made available on whatever portal is created for interoperability and who will have access to the data.

It was reinforced that sign on to the MOU signifies a commitment to public access to data users, primarily researchers, keeping in mind that there is a case management aspect at the root of the groups charge to establishing interoperability.

The point was made that the Care4Kids database is a source beyond the usual, in that it includes data on informal providers.

Linda reasserted that it is likely that the MOU's will be issued in levels, with the initial MOU being focused on establishing a commitment to be at the table in the joint effort to create an early care and education data system. The suggestion was made to add a paragraph to the current draft MOU that clearly articulates the intention of having levels of commitment with specific deliverables that are consistent with state and federal laws.

2-1-1 Child Care also needs to be added to the list of participants on the MOU.

The importance having the MOU reviewed by an agency attorney was also stressed.

The meeting concluded with some discussion about the need for Commissioners to be presented with the MOU from the SAC, and possibly reinforced by the Governor.

There will be no Data Systems Workgroup meeting in August, but communications may occur via email. Agencies to submit the Cross Agency Unique Identifier Map.

Sue Wilson distributed copies of the Early Childhood DataCONNections, November 2006 report, "A Development Plan for Early Care and Education Data and Research Systems.

Adjourn

Next Meeting

September 7th, 9am-11am.