WEBVTT

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: As we wait for our latecomers, I just want to make sure that you see that down at the bottom of your tray, there's a Q&A option that has a little dialogue bubble above it. You can feel free to enter your questions at any point during the webinar, and we will have some dedicated time at the end to go over your questions.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: So it looks like we're getting to a pretty good number of participants, so we're going to go ahead and get started. Welcome to Creating Statewide Logitudinal Data Systems That Provide Useful Information, the final in our four-part series. My name is Kathy Boot, and I work for the Data Integration Support Center at WestEd. Next slide.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: So, today's session is really focusing in on expanding data partnerships. So, being that I work in an education-related entity, often we really think about longitudinal data in terms of education, whether people go to college and what their employment outcomes are, but there is a lot we can learn from health and human service agencies.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: which have been bringing together data from a variety of sources that, would really enrich the kinds of data that are being collected currently for education organizations. So, next slide.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: What we're going to do today is we're going to start out… I'm going to introduce you to a framework that was co-developed by four agencies that support the development of longitudinal data systems.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: And then we're going to dig into the specific use case of what you could be doing if you're wanting to go beyond education data, to be able to understand what is supporting or inhibiting people from getting to their educational and career goals.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: We're going to be hearing directly from representatives from Connecticut, Iowa, and North Carolina, who will share what they've been able to do in this arena. We'll have a bit of a panel discussion, where we'll be looking at particular ways they've done implementation, and then we're going to open it up to your questions.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: Next slide.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: So, as I mentioned, I'm going to be sharing a framework, and it is really the work of four different organizations, so we really owe quite a bit to Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy. AISP developed a foundational framework that the education-related organizations found really, really useful. So, Data Quality Campaign, which has been relentlessly working on making sure that people actually have access to linked datasets.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: Education Commission for the States, which focuses a lot on the policy environment, and us here at DISC, who tend to work on the nuts and bolts of implementation, got together and created a way to think about data systems that we think might be useful as you're going forward with your implementations.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: Next slide.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: But before I go into our model, there's one thing that I want to do, especially because we're in a mixed environment with folks that might be more from the health and human services perspectives, which is to clarify what we mean by an SLDS, or Statewide Longitudinal Data System. That's a term that's often used in educational formats. Folks that are in human services might be thinking of it as an integrated longitudinal data system. There's a lot of different

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: terms that people use. P20W is another one that shows up when you're trying to understand employment outcomes. But whatever term you're using, all of these different use cases have four things in common.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: The first is that you are actually connecting data across systems. So, rather than go one-off and say, well, we need to have this information for a particular, evaluation, you're really saying that we need to have different agencies that are routinely bringing their data together, because we don't understand what's happening to our participants, our students, our workers otherwise.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: And what that requires is that the data has to actually be linked at the individual level. It's not enough to say, oh, we had, you know, 115 graduates of a particular program. You need to know who those graduates were so that you can track whether they were receiving some sort of food benefit, or whether they had healthcare, or if they were a foster youth, in addition to things like where they went to college and

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: Whether they got a job.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: The other thing that's really important about these data systems is that they're longitudinal, which means that these data matches have to happen again and again and again, because it's not enough to know what someone's outcomes were, maybe during the time they were enrolled in college and whether they were receiving various types of benefits, but we want to know what happened to them later on, and so that means that you need to be able to create this repository that's really

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: Each year, layering on more information about the different services an individual is receiving, and how they are interacting with education, workforce, the justice system, a bunch of other ways that we have state data.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: And because of the sensitivity of that body of information about individuals, data security and privacy are just core requirements when you are building these systems. If those aren't at the beginning of your thinking about it, you really shouldn't go forward, because we want to make sure that people can trust that when their data are linked, it's going to be put to good purposes.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: Next slide.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: So let's talk about this model that we all came up with. What we realized

is that when we would be talking to people about what they wanted out of a linked dataset, sometimes people would be talking past each other, and that was because they had different use cases in mind.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: So, what we want to do is sort of outline the three most common ways that people tend to use information when they link it.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: So the first, and this is often where states will start, is the idea that they want to create a dashboard or some sort of public report. And this is really useful when what you want is transparent and consistent information that displays and clarifies what outcomes are.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: So, this is really useful when people just don't have basic information about, for example, the degree to which they are serving people who were formerly incarcerated, or whether folks that were incarcerated have different employment outcomes than folks that don't have that record. So, that's kind of what you want to have in a public report in a dashboard.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: That's different than the research and analytics use case. So this is when you've got usually researchers and evaluators who want to do really nuanced analyses to figure out the factors that are impacting outcomes. So the problem with dashboards is that they're basically descriptive statistics. You can say, oh, this

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: This many people had this experience, but if you want to know why that experience might have or might not have led to a particular outcome, you really have to get in and look at that individual data. And so that's a different way that states can use their linked data.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: And the third, and this is the thing that I'm hearing the most as people are trying to figure out how to take their research-focused or dashboard-focused data systems and make them more useful to folks on the ground, is the desire to support individuals. And what's important to understand about the supporting individual's use case is that it's actually really different than the other two. And that's because you need to provide information about particular individuals

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: Which means you need to know who they are.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: So in the other two use cases, we generally remove the person's name and any other identifier that would allow you to know whose data is being represented. In supporting individuals, we need to know who that young person is, so we can give them better support. So if you know that someone in your classroom is homeless, you can figure out how to get them to the right sorts of housing or food benefits that are going to help them be

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: able to stay present in life.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: So those are the three core functions. Let's go to the next slide.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: And the reason that we wanted to do this is because we're worried that a lot of the conversations that are happening at the policy level in particular are not helpful for getting to a data system that's actually used. So one of the, you know, disappointing things about when states have linked data, especially in the education context, is how few people have that information. So the data's there, but it's a black box that nobody

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: can get to. So if we change the way we think about these projects of building longitudinal data systems, where we're basically saying it's about how it gets used, it changes that conversation.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: So it means that we can say that these linked data sets are really there to serve people and inform decisions. It is not a technology process.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: The other thing that's really important, you don't want to frame it as a technology project, but you do have to understand the technology for it to go forward. And if you understand which use case you're trying to create, there actually is a lot of examples of the specific technical and legal and governance frameworks that'll make sure that that data can be made safely available to the right parties. It encourages states to let the purpose drive the design and not make it all, like.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: all narrow and technical. We really figure out what it is we're trying to get done, and that makes it easier for us to get actionable information out to folks.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: So now that you know what we're trying to share, let's go to the next slide. Just want to remind folks that this is the final webinar, so we did three earlier ones that were looking at those 3 use cases, and those are recorded, and we'll send you information about them. But today's webinar is really about what can we learn from those health and human service examples that would help us expand our data partnerships going forward.

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Kathy Booth, WestEd: And with that, I'm going to turn it over to Della Jenkins from AISP, who's going to be leading the rest of today's meeting.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Hi, everyone! Thank you, Kathy. I am very excited to be here with you all today. I see both familiar and unfamiliar names in the participant list, so great to meet some of you. I'm also joined by some AISP Network friends from Iowa, North Carolina, and Connecticut, who are going to chime in later. So, I will be brief in my initial framing, but want to start by talking a little bit about

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): how we think about expanding data partnerships and connecting SLDS data efforts with health and human service data, and how there are both new opportunities and new challenges that arise when we,

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): you know, embark on this endeavor. So, on the pro side, on the opportunity side on the left.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): I think first and foremost, you know, since the 1960s and the publication of the Coleman Report.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): folks in the education, research, and policy space and practitioners have understood that a very large percentage of the variation in education outcomes that we see, can be attributed to factors outside of the school building that impact our students and their families. And so knowing this, it makes sense that, as Kathy previewed, we want to pursue information that can contextualize our student populations.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): their experiences, and the social determinants of both health and learning that are at play here. In addition, there is a lot to learn from the health and human service sector around data linkage and data analytic methods, because this is a field filled with a long history of training on these topics, and so it's always great to look to others outside of our immediate bubble.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): to see, hey, how do you solve these problems of practice, and how have you approached these things over time? And then finally, practically, there may be real opportunities in your state to tap into new resources to support data infrastructure, data sharing, and data analytic projects when we expand our partnerships. So we're tapping into new sources of revenue, potentially, that can support the work that we already do.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): So on the right-hand side, of course, this doesn't come super quickly and easily. We at AISP actually have t-shirts that say data sharing is not for the weak. Those have been given out at past conferences. It is a challenge here, right? And first and foremost, this challenge, I think, comes

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): from the way that our government systems are built, the funding and the administrative functions within our agencies are highly siloed, meaning that we're each going to be developing our source system separately. This is an inevitability, but how do we bridge these silos? How do we build the actual systems that exchange information and the people and process around that, so that those silos don't mean that we can never

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): know what the other agency knows about the people we're jointly serving.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): So I would submit to you that a big part of that is actually communication. And a major challenge here is finding the shared language and finding the time to build shared language and trust between partners who are operating in different contexts, facing different pressures, and accountable to different missions.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): And of course, the more partners, the more complexity, the more lawyers, the more technical standards, etc. that we are meeting.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Next slide, please.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): So, we wanted to share a few lessons that we've learned and kind of synthesized looking across our national network, where lots of health and human service agencies are sharing data, with partners of many shapes and sizes, including SLDS partners. So…

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): The first, point here relates back to the framework that Kathy shared in our joint paper, thinking about the fact that

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): it's so important to differentiate these three core functions, and that many SLDS are working to really define those use cases and understand how to build systems where purpose drives design. Interestingly, I think a major kind of truth that we have from the health and human service space

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): is that because of the positionality of those agencies and what they're tasked with, the ways in which they've been consolidated, they generally have authority and by necessity, do all three of these core functions. And so I think there are lessons we can learn from them, around that, particularly knowing that a huge health and human service agency with however many, you know, 15, 20, 30 divisions.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): will not and should not use the same data request process for an internal use case where they're, you know, using data for case management to support individuals. They won't use that same process for

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): feeding data into a longitudinal research evaluation, or a dashboard. And so there are lots of good models from health and human service agencies about how these pathways can be differentiated in really useful ways that save time and energy for everyone.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): In addition, we can think about the fact that there's

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): a need for a data request process and a workflow between our SLDS and HHS data sharing efforts, and we need to find pathways for that as well. And so, I think a lot about aligned governance frameworks and how we can crosswalk how our health and human service partners are, putting guardrails around the use of their data to ensure privacy and equity and ethical use.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): And how our governance systems work, so that we're not, creating a third and separate process, but really a bridge between the two governance frameworks that already exist.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): And finally, there are lots of lessons to be learned from Health and Human Service partners on the kind of data management, data privacy, data analytic front.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): And that's because these partners have been resourced to do that work for quite a long time, have a lot of training in these areas, and may be able to do some things that are still aspirational for many SLDS systems. So, for example, incorporating unstructured qualitative data. They may have tools and capacity and training for that that

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): your system has not yet tapped into. And so I think there's lots of important reasons to kind of pick our heads up and try to find time to build these relationships and cross-training.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Next slide, please.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): So we're gonna dive into some practical tips to kind of either get started or go deeper in these conversations. I have a hunch many of you have done some of this already.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): And so, starting at the top, first and foremost, my advice to you is to be discerning about what you ask for. So you do not need and you do not want all of the data that a health and human service agency collects.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): It is a massive amount of data.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): You already have too much data yourself, right? So, the more, increasingly, and sometimes with our support, health and human service agencies are really working to, as you are, increase the quality and availability of their metadata that describes and documents what they collect and what they have.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): And so I really encourage you to look at that metadata, to ask for it if you can't find it, and to hone your request to be as specific as you can to articulate your use case and what data information you would actually need to answer your question as a starting point. And especially if your request can touch on a shared policy priority that someone, and it doesn't have to be the whole agency, but one part of that

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): agency.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): If they have a shared priority, these conversations are going to move forward a lot quicker. So, thinking about the people that we both serve, and our what's in it for me, right? How do we serve both sides of this equation?

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): we also really need to invest time, in defining our terms, because our contexts are different, and in the education and health context, things are defined differently, things are talked about differently. So, navigating that, and navigating new org charts and building relationships so that you know who to call.

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00:17:25.790 --> 00:17:33.480
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Or who to call to ask who to call, is really important, and an often, you know, challenging and under-resourced part of this work.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): So, finally, and I have a feeling some discussion will, bubble up about this later, because it always does.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): you know, we're here to say that it is totally possible to meet both HIPAA and FERPA legal requirements to share information, but it means building literacy with a different set of terms and mechanisms for sharing across two different contexts.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): So we're here to help with that, as are some other partners on this call, and just want to say that, you know, this is a learning curve, and if you have the right people at the table, it can be done.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): So…

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): with… with that, kind of, with those, foundational lessons and considerations set, I think we're going to dive deeper into many of these through conversation with our panelists. So I want to introduce them today. We have four panelists from three states, that we work with.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Here today, we have Scott Gall and Susan Smith from the State of Connecticut. Scott is the state's Chief Data Officer in the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, and Susan comes to us from the Connecticut Department of Social Services, so she is our Health and Human Services rep today on the call. Thank you for being here, Susan. We have Sharon Zanti from Iowa State University, and the Iowa's Integrated Decision Making… Data System for Decision Making.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): best acronym ever, I2D2. And we have Tripp Stallings from North Carolina's Longitudinal Data System. And so these… these panelists are fantastic examples because they're each coming from a different

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): place here. Tripp Stallings is coming from where you're coming from, many of you, an SLDS system that is working to expand and, and

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): has long worked with partners in health and human services. Then we have Scott and Susan, who are in a state where a statewide data strategy has really, enabled alignment across data sharing partners from different spaces.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): And then we have Sharon, who's sitting within a state where Iowa State University–university public partnership model, Iowa State is really bridging

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Partnership between

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): education and health and human service partners. So, I'm very excited to introduce them today. We're going to ask them each to say a few words, starting with the state of Connecticut that will kind of ground you.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): And where they're coming from today. So they'll each introduce themselves for about a minute, and then we will, turn to some panel discussion, followed by your Q&A. So if you have pressing questions as they're speaking, please, again, feel free to use the Q&A feature and put those in the chat.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Scott and Susan, hello!

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Scott Gaul: Hello. Great. Thanks for having us.

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Scott Gaul: I'll do a quick intro, and then pass the baton to my colleague, Susan.

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Scott Gaul: So, in Connecticut, so my role as Chief Data Officer, and like Tel had said, that consists of, among other things, developing a statewide data strategy, trying to have a holistic approach to the way the state works with data. I sit in our Office of Policy and Management, which is our state's budget policy and planning agency, sort of akin to OMB at a federal level, so we don't provide services.

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Scott Gaul: We're not an agency that's kind of out in the field, but we are tasked with working with all the other executive branch agencies on a variety of different efforts as it relates to data, so we manage our state's open data transparency efforts, state geospatial information system, and then have, as the slide says, taken on the role for the administration of the state longitudinal data system

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Scott Gaul: 2021. And there's a couple different forces at work there that I'll just talk through very quickly. One is, again, sort of the intention that, as a state, we have a holistic kind of approach to data, that we're not reinventing the wheel or sort of creating silos in different areas, which,

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Scott Gaul: I think can easily happen, and so they said, okay, we want OPM to be the agency that's sort of managing some of these data functions and taking on this critical part of our state's data infrastructure. The other part of it is really what Della talked about earlier, too, is that it came from our education agency, who had, you know, sort of provided the original funding to get an SLDS off the ground

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Scott Gaul: several years ago, and they, sort of consistently made the same point that, came up earlier, that so many of the things that affect students, in schools occur outside the school building. And so they wanted to make sure that they were taking, also, a holistic look at students, and not just looking at what happens, you know, in a classroom setting, but that they're looking at the impacts of housing, employment, across generations with the family.

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Scott Gaul: And then particularly the role that our human services agencies, not just Department of Social Services, but our Child Welfare Protective Services Agency, so on. And so they said, we really want to make sure that this system is not just about what happens inside a school building, and the best way to do that is to make sure that it's kind of managed elsewhere, and then to start to build the bridges with a lot of the other health and human services agencies.

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Scott Gaul: Which hopefully we have done well, and Susan can talk about her own experience in that, but that's sort of… that's some of the rationale for how we are set up in Connecticut.

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Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Perfect. Thank you so much.

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Susan Smith: I'll just do a quick hello. I'm Susan Smith, and I'm the Director of Business Intelligence and Analytics for the Connecticut Department of Social Services. So, we are

Connecticut's Medicaid, SNAP, and TANNA TFA agency.

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Susan Smith: We also provide a variety of other community services related to health and access to water. We also do protective services for the elder, child, support, so just a number of programs, and I serve as the agency's data officer and work very closely with Scott and his wonderful team.

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Susan Smith: So we're happy to chat today about the work that we've partnered on over the years.

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Susan Smith: to, share and integrate data where appropriate, and particularly with that, equity and, protection, lens, to, to make sure that, the persons who are within the administrative data set of our… an agency such as mine and other health and human services is, you know, maximally, protected, so…

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Susan Smith: Very excited to, answer questions and share our experience.

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00:23:45.220 --> 00:23:51.440
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Thank you, Susan. Thank you, Scott. We're gonna go next to, I believe, Iowa. Sharon Zanty.

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00:23:52.540 --> 00:24:06.379
Sharon Zanti: Hello, everyone. Thank you so much for having me here today. Like Dell said, my name is Sharon. I am a research associate at Iowa State University, where I work with Iowa's integrated data system for decision making.

105
00:24:06.380 --> 00:24:31.340
Sharon Zanti: Before that, though, which I think is maybe helpful context for our talk today, I worked in state government in Colorado and was really interested in data sharing and integration and how it works at the state level, so I had the opportunity to study that for my research work with AISP, for several years and study the field of integrated data systems, and now I am in my second year

106
00:24:31.340 --> 00:24:35.479
Sharon Zanti: working within an IDS at Iowa State.

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00:24:35.550 --> 00:24:59.900
Sharon Zanti: We are led by Dr. Heather Rouse, who's a professor at Iowa State University, and since about 2015, we've been partnering with our state's early childhood programs to run an integrated data system that is focused a lot on early childhood and family well-being, but more and more, we are expanding partnerships and thinking about, how to integrate data from education, work

108
00:24:59.900 --> 00:25:23.809
Sharon Zanti: and other health and human service agencies. So even though our roots are in early childhood, in recent years, we've been forming a lot of additional partnerships. Since we are a university-based IDS, we tend to focus a lot on doing research and reporting. We also do analytics and dashboards, and more and more, we've been able to, because of the capacity that we've built.

109
00:25:23.810 --> 00:25:28.190
Sharon Zanti: Do a little bit more real-time data support for our partners at the state.

110

110
00:25:28.190 --> 00:25:33.969
Sharon Zanti: And so I'll share more about our, I think, our partners and partnership model in a little bit.

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00:25:35.150 --> 00:25:40.510
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Thank you, Sharon. And finally, we have Trip Stallings from the state of North Carolina.

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00:25:41.600 --> 00:25:55.960
Trip Stallings: Hi, my name is Tripp Stallings, I'm Executive Director of the North Carolina Longitudinal Data System, and I have to agree with Della that I2D2 is one of the best acronyms ever, and I come to that from a place of experience, because any of you out there running an LDS know

113
00:25:55.960 --> 00:26:02.990
Trip Stallings: We're always constantly battling with, our state's chapter, the Latter-day Saints, for search engine supremacy.

114
00:26:03.060 --> 00:26:13.329
Trip Stallings: So we need to get a new acronym pretty soon. Lds, it's really important to understand that the NCLDS is not the only LDS in North Carolina.

115
00:26:13.440 --> 00:26:23.289
Trip Stallings: And it is not the only education-focused LDS in North Carolina, and that matters for the conversation today, because it means that it grew from a very different

116
00:26:23.410 --> 00:26:39.420
Trip Stallings: need in a very different environment that I think actually has been very beneficial for our ability to do what this webinar is about, which is to incorporate data from sources outside of the P20W pipeline. It also matters that NCLDS is not a data owner.

117
00:26:39.940 --> 00:26:44.700
Trip Stallings: And so, as a result, the way that we have grown is that we are data source agnostic.

118
00:26:44.840 --> 00:27:04.520
Trip Stallings: Both in terms of the way our architecture is structured, the way we handle our linking, the way we handle our governance, our privacy, and security. All of it was built from the beginning with the idea that we were going to be working with any data from any source, also public or private, and that's made it more, it's a little bit easier for us to accommodate some of these data sources that

119
00:27:04.520 --> 00:27:09.869
Trip Stallings: That more traditional LDSs might be, working through how to, to bring in.

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00:27:09.870 --> 00:27:23.930
Trip Stallings: It's also important to note that NCLDS is two different things. It's both a system and a service. And the system side does a lot of the common approaches to warehousing that a lot of us do, and data quality services and things like that.

121
00:27:24.080 --> 00:27:43.790
Trip Stallings: But for data requests, we lean on our data service, and making that separation means that anytime we have a request, it is, we start from scratch. There's no assumptions about data availability, there's no assumptions about permissions, there's no assumptions about what data owners are or aren't going to allow. So we can…

122

00:27:43.790 --> 00:27:55.279
Trip Stallings: construct our system approach to how we handle, manage, and improve data quality and governance, separate and apart from the selection service, which, again, makes it a little bit easier, I think, for us to incorporate

123
00:27:55.280 --> 00:27:59.630
Trip Stallings: More and more diverse data for the request portion of what we do.

124
00:27:59.630 --> 00:28:07.380
Trip Stallings: And I'll probably be talking a little bit more about that as we get into some of the topics here later in the webinar. I think that's probably enough for now, though. Thanks.

125
00:28:08.310 --> 00:28:09.560
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Thank you so much.

126
00:28:10.090 --> 00:28:31.229
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Those were perfect, those were really rich introductions, and we're gonna go now to some questions for you all to dive deeper into those, starting with one that very much builds on everything you all already touched on. I want to ask you to share a little bit more than what was on your initial slide and where you started about your partnership model.

127
00:28:31.230 --> 00:28:38.180
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): and the evolution of the partners. So, if you could each speak for a minute or two about

128
00:28:38.370 --> 00:28:45.960
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): The evolution from where you started to where you are today, and any choice points along that trajectory that you think might be useful to this group?

129
00:28:46.770 --> 00:28:51.030
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): And I will start with… Sharon.

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00:28:53.560 --> 00:29:14.999
Sharon Zanti: All right, so, as I mentioned before, I-2D2 was conceptualized around 2015, through a partnership with an entity called Early Childhood Iowa, which was created through the state legislature to coordinate early childhood efforts across the state and bring together lots of disparate initiatives into one place, which is housed within HHS.

131
00:29:15.000 --> 00:29:31.990
Sharon Zanti: We started out by supporting their statewide needs assessment process and helping the local early childhood areas improve the quality of the data they were using, kind of standardize what metrics they were using to do their needs assessments, and iterated on that for several years.

132
00:29:32.860 --> 00:29:43.939
Sharon Zanti: we completed many different projects in partnership with the state and local early childhood partners, and then we eventually ended up building something called the Iowa Data Drive.

133
00:29:43.940 --> 00:30:01.010
Sharon Zanti: So, over time, what we realized is these partners, didn't just need guidance, but maybe they could actually use some tools to streamline their work so that they could focus on doing what they do best in understanding the local early childhood communities, and we could step in as the integrated data partner, and help

134

00:30:01.010 --> 00:30:13.589
Sharon Zanti: them manage data and house tools. So the Iowa Data Drive, which is… it's publicly available. If you go to it, it says you need to log in, but you don't. You can just go straight in. So if anyone wants to see that.

135
00:30:13.880 --> 00:30:37.660
Sharon Zanti: please feel free to go check it out. It is basically a dashboard website with indicators that our partners use regularly to complete their needs assessments and do their community planning to meet early childhood needs. We are in the process of getting ready to do several updates to the Iowa Data Drive, but that's been, like, a core use case over time.

136
00:30:37.660 --> 00:30:41.329
Sharon Zanti: is, really moving from…

137
00:30:41.480 --> 00:30:59.030
Sharon Zanti: Helping our partners collect the data and go out and do all the… they were doing a lot of work on the ground themselves, and spending many hours, frankly, doing things that aren't, like, best aligned with their skills and resources, and that we could do much more efficiently by building a tool where you can go and

138
00:30:59.090 --> 00:31:05.769
Sharon Zanti: you know, see all the same, sources that everyone needs to use to complete their needs assessments. But…

139
00:31:06.200 --> 00:31:28.659
Sharon Zanti: in addition to these early childhood projects, over time, we've gradually partnered more and more with other colleagues across HHS. We've done several large projects involving the state's birth records. We have a couple decades' worth of birth records in our IDS, which I think are really ripe for thinking about integrations with education data as well, thinking about, you know, linking

140
00:31:28.660 --> 00:31:36.810
Sharon Zanti: And being able to follow children from birth, and mothers from the time of giving birth, all the way through education systems to.

141
00:31:36.810 --> 00:31:39.790
Sharon Zanti: Higher ed, and to the workforce.

142
00:31:40.100 --> 00:31:42.110
Sharon Zanti: Are…

143
00:31:42.330 --> 00:31:53.690
Sharon Zanti: model is that the state really maintains control of all the data, and the university provides the infrastructure, the data management, the data security, all of those pieces.

144
00:31:54.050 --> 00:32:08.529
Sharon Zanti: ECI, Early Childhood Iowa, continues to be the core partner that funds and sustains this work, and it drives many of our use cases. But in recent years, we have been expanding a lot more to work with public health, Department of Education.

145
00:32:08.530 --> 00:32:19.760
Sharon Zanti: Our DHS partners primarily looking at childcare subsidies, and using those data. We're… we've been working more with the Iowa Workforce Department.

146
00:32:19.760 --> 00:32:25.010

Sharon Zanti: And trying to think about how we could do more routine integrations there with them.

147
00:32:25.010 --> 00:32:48.219
Sharon Zanti: Our governance structure and legal structure follows a lot of, if you… if you look into AISP's guidance, about structuring, legal and governance frameworks, we really follow a lot of that to a T, because, we… we really got off the ground with help from the AISP peer network. So we have a, like, an umbrella structure where

148
00:32:48.220 --> 00:33:12.949
Sharon Zanti: There's a memorandum of agreement between all of the partners at the state who have agreed to participate in the integrated data system, but then we use data sharing agreements and data use licenses for individual projects and people that are involved. So there's sort of high-level agreement from several partners who have agreed that, yes, this is of value and we want to participate, but every project is vetted

149
00:33:12.950 --> 00:33:28.620
Sharon Zanti: pretty extensively, to make sure it aligns with our partners' needs. And we are not… I think there are some university systems that might take outside requests for research data. We do not do that. We really are in service of the state and their needs.

150
00:33:30.240 --> 00:33:48.939
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Thank you so much, Sharon. I'm gonna ask, Scott and Susan to answer that same question about, kind of, the evolution of your work and your partners, and realizing that, that these are meaty questions, so, I'll… I'll give you a couple… two, three minutes to answer that.

151
00:33:51.620 --> 00:34:13.389
Scott Gaul: We can start maybe talking about the evolution and then the partnership model. So again, I think, like I said a little bit earlier, the evolution for Connecticut was… it started very education and workforce-centric. It was a small number of agencies, 4, 5, 6, and we're now 15. I think yesterday we have 16. We added another agency in a board meeting, which is great. The,

152
00:34:13.760 --> 00:34:28.380
Scott Gaul: the rationale for that, again, is a lot driven through education, where they said, you know, we know that the impacts on students are outside the school building, we want to make sure that's reflected. At the same time, there was, you know, a handful of other projects that people wanted to look things at.

153
00:34:28.380 --> 00:34:33.820
Scott Gaul: People, and the data collected on those people in a way that crossed boundaries that,

154
00:34:33.820 --> 00:34:49.730
Scott Gaul: the sort of boundaries and silos that government has set up. So we had projects that focused on, 2Gen, sort of across different generations. We had projects focused on workforce programs and understanding if there's barriers or challenges to employment and workforce programs, or workforce programs that meld human services and,

155
00:34:49.929 --> 00:34:53.510
Scott Gaul: workforce initiatives, we had a program that was on,

156
00:34:53.510 --> 00:35:16.920
Scott Gaul: high utilizers, where the people sort of touch multiple services, repeatedly, and these all kind of happened at the same time, and realized, basically, it's the same type of people being asked sort of the same questions to sign the same sort of data sharing agreements in different settings, and it would be better if we had a consistent approach rather than kind

of reinventing the wheel for each of those. So that, along with an infusion of federal funds, allowed us to kind of

157
00:35:16.990 --> 00:35:28.150
Scott Gaul: Have the expansion, so moved from education workforce, we added early childhood, health and human services, some of the criminal justice agencies, in the past few years.

158
00:35:28.320 --> 00:35:51.239
Scott Gaul: Which has been good. The partnership model that we have is what I would characterize as very decentralized, so that the agencies control, the data and the decisions. Our role, in the middle is to kind of facilitate that and make sure folks have a voice in a review in the process, but, but they control it. So if Susan and Department of Social Services decide this is a project that is not in their interest, then they can say no to it, and, you know, there's not,

159
00:35:51.240 --> 00:36:15.410
Scott Gaul: much that the researcher or I or anyone else, can do about that. And I think that's as it should be, you know, it's like, we don't know the programs, we don't know sort of how things run, we don't know the priorities and bandwidth, and so that's a trade-off that we've sort of decided to have for this. Some states, I know, have very centralized systems, and ours is pretty decentralized, and it provides the agency control, but that's where… that's what's allowed us to have an expansive system that covers a lot of things and take on

160
00:36:15.540 --> 00:36:39.259
Scott Gaul: good projects. And then, as a byproduct of that, it's also helped that we're able to build off and learn about the agency practices. So DSS and through Susan's leadership, has set up a lot of internal governance and procedures to make sure that they understand what's happening with their data and internal review. And you can see now, we've gone and presented that back to other agencies, and so now they're building that kind of infrastructure

161
00:36:39.260 --> 00:36:43.980
Scott Gaul: internally as well. So, like, that to me is a nice, byproduct of that.

162
00:36:45.910 --> 00:36:47.389
Scott Gaul: Attorney Smith, I don't know.

163
00:36:48.340 --> 00:36:48.970
Susan Smith: Sure.

164
00:36:49.200 --> 00:37:03.150
Susan Smith: So I'll just add a couple pieces here, is that, actually, when I, first became involved with, this, initiative in Connecticut, I was actually with, Connecticut's Child Welfare agency. So I was, worked in protective services, for

165
00:37:03.340 --> 00:37:06.059
Susan Smith: I hate to say this, I know it looks so young. 25 years.

166
00:37:06.060 --> 00:37:25.810
Susan Smith: And then moved over to, DSS about 6 or so years ago. And so, at that time, it was under the, I think, the Connecticut, college systems, and then, Scott's agency took it over. And, I can tell, I wasn't, you know, I had to be sold. Like, I, you know, I was very nervous about this and about sharing

167
00:37:25.810 --> 00:37:29.869
Susan Smith: Very vulnerable… data from very vulnerable populations, you know, really kind of understanding

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00:37:29.870 --> 00:37:53.430
Susan Smith: how certain folks came into our administrative data system, often over-surveiled, overrepresented, so I was very nervous about it. And, I think when Scott and I, first met, I think it was when we first took the position over at the, our legislative office building, and we chatted and actually went out to lunch and talked about it. And I think over the years, we've really had, a really collegial and respectful relationship where

169
00:37:53.430 --> 00:37:56.310
Susan Smith: We've… where I've been invited to kind of

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00:37:56.310 --> 00:38:07.649
Susan Smith: share our perspective and help, as Scott note, really shape this in a way that I think works, you know, for us. I think it's always, obviously, a work in progress, but, you know, we've really,

171
00:38:07.660 --> 00:38:26.430
Susan Smith: felt that this is something that we can, you know, kind of do, having the ability to control what we're able to share, the level of, the level in which we're able to share it, or just being able to say, you know, hey, this is not something in which we can participate. I'll just add this one quick thing, is that in… for our state agency in particular, there's actual state legislation

172
00:38:26.430 --> 00:38:30.590
Susan Smith: That defines, that we can only share data absent consent.

173
00:38:30.590 --> 00:38:43.330
Susan Smith: only under the circumstances that the data directly advances, or directly is related to the administration of our programs. So we do have kind of a legislative restriction, so we do have to kind of

174
00:38:43.330 --> 00:39:00.300
Susan Smith: find and work and see if it legitimately, does that. So, you know, so again, I think we've really, you know, kind of found a good partnership to try to make this work for, you know, where we are, at least for our state agency, you know, needs and data perspective.

175
00:39:01.530 --> 00:39:11.030
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): That's so helpful to have your side of the… that journey and transition, Susan, thank you. Tripp, do you want to talk a little bit about how your system and partnerships have evolved?

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00:39:11.030 --> 00:39:15.919
Trip Stallings: Yeah, I'll try to be brief. I'm watching the time. I know you've got other things to get to here today.

177
00:39:16.510 --> 00:39:27.870
Trip Stallings: I inherited a statute, an executive order, that created a NCLDS with a lot of sticks. Thou shalt be involved. And I've been making the transition over the last 4 years to carrots, so…

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00:39:28.000 --> 00:39:38.799
Trip Stallings: We began from day one with partnership from our Health and Human Services Department, and that included data already that were not education only, so I inherited that.

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00:39:39.060 --> 00:39:48.329
Trip Stallings: But, much like what Connecticut shared, our goal is to… is to encourage other data owners to be a part of this process, and so we've transitioned into CARET.

180
00:39:48.380 --> 00:40:07.309
Trip Stallings: mode, and that is largely by demonstrating that NCLDS can provide the services and supports that they've had to provide on their own, and often redundantly, at the agency level or organization level. And slowly, you know, some of them are starting to see that there is value, and that we're not… we don't have an ulterior motive, we really are here to help.

181
00:40:07.310 --> 00:40:18.410
Trip Stallings: And we can make their lives easier in addition to having them join their data and join forces with the work that we're trying to do. I think that's been one of the largest, one of the biggest pieces of that. I spent.

182
00:40:18.540 --> 00:40:25.550
Trip Stallings: Time during our first four years, and the first 4-year strategic plan, also carving out explicitly a path for onboarding

183
00:40:25.550 --> 00:40:41.460
Trip Stallings: new data owners and new data sources that would involve each of the current data owners as part of that decision-making process, and that's the path that we're following. So Scott and Susan are a little bit ahead of me in terms of some of the cool stuff that's coming on this year for them, but by this time next year.

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00:40:41.460 --> 00:40:45.140
Trip Stallings: We're likely also going to have geospatial data, health data.

185
00:40:45.390 --> 00:40:49.300
Trip Stallings: Some criminal justice data, and a few others that we've got in the hopper right now.

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00:40:51.680 --> 00:41:13.860
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Thank you so much. I wonder, very briefly, I feel like the part of the Iowa evolution that we didn't quite get to, Sharon, and I want to prod on, is, like, you talked about how this system started really as an indicators and reporting project, and then, you know, also fueled research over time. But I know you all have taken on some use cases in the supporting individuals

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00:41:13.880 --> 00:41:22.360
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): function bucket as well, and I wanted to ask, what did you… how did that come from partners? Like, how did that happen for you all in Iowa?

188
00:41:24.370 --> 00:41:33.890
Sharon Zanti: Yeah, absolutely. That's a great question. Something we've been working on in the last year is we had state partners, who we've been working with for a long time through Early Childhood Iowa.

189
00:41:33.890 --> 00:41:45.269
Sharon Zanti: Say that there was money for a pilot program to support more essential needs navigation, much of which was occurring through local early childhood service areas.

190
00:41:45.270 --> 00:42:07.150
Sharon Zanti: And they didn't have a strategy in place for collecting data. I think long-term, they were thinking, we're gonna need a case management system to help us, with this project, but we have to stand up a system right now. We have money to fund these pilots immediately, and we need to collect some data about it. So even though our history has really been more involved with integrating

191
00:42:07.150 --> 00:42:25.109

Sharon Zanti: administrative records that are being collected by programs. This was more of a, we're building a data collection tool for our partners, so a little bit out of our normal lane, but being university researchers, we have a lot of access to great survey tools. So we built a very simple Qualtrics survey to help our partners collect

192
00:42:25.110 --> 00:42:29.040
Sharon Zanti: Intake and follow-up information from, families.

193
00:42:29.040 --> 00:42:33.399
Sharon Zanti: that are engaging with an essential needs pilot program. So, that wrapped up.

194
00:42:33.700 --> 00:42:53.349
Sharon Zanti: our first year wrapped up, and we're working on the reporting from that right now, so that we can actually start, sort of the 2.0 pilot version that has expanded a little bit, involves some other partners at HHS. But I think there's, like, a good lesson learned baked within here. One is that

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00:42:54.130 --> 00:43:04.870
Sharon Zanti: the… I think the long-term plan is that something like this could be run through case management, getting at that… that third use that Kathy introduced us to around supporting individuals.

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00:43:04.870 --> 00:43:28.990
Sharon Zanti: As a university, we are not… we don't have those tools, we are not really best positioned to do that, but we are positioned to help with this kind of stopgap period of we need to collect data quickly, make the best sense of it we can for our partners, help… they could sort of outsource a function to us because we've been working with them and their local partners so long, that this was really a seamless transition.

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00:43:28.990 --> 00:43:30.490
Sharon Zanti: And,

198
00:43:30.490 --> 00:43:54.799
Sharon Zanti: the other exciting part of this is that the data that we were able to provide is able to, you know, be taken to the state legislature, to the governor's office, to show some of the early impacts of this program, and to advocate for why it is important. And without data, the… it's hard to make that case of why we need a program like this, even though there are state and federal

199
00:43:54.800 --> 00:44:07.870
Sharon Zanti: programs that already exist. So, that was exciting for us to see, in a relatively quick time frame for a research, shop, like, oh, we were able to get these data, analyze it, and see impacts relatively quickly.

200
00:44:07.880 --> 00:44:09.249
Sharon Zanti: So, we're still…

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00:44:09.560 --> 00:44:13.739
Sharon Zanti: That use case is still evolving, but thanks for asking about it, because it's happening right now.

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00:44:14.300 --> 00:44:27.059
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Yeah, I just think that's really exciting, and a really great example of the different needs for different functions, and also that… I think that reflection about, like, how you're positioned is an interesting one. I think it relates,

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00:44:27.060 --> 00:44:46.959
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): relates to my next question, which will probably be my last, and then I'd love to take one or two audience questions, so if you all are holding those, please feel free to drop them in the chat. But I want to ask specifically about, this week is Data Privacy Week. I don't know if everyone on this call knows that, but, it should always be Data Privacy Week, right? Data privacy

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00:44:46.960 --> 00:44:47.560
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Is it…

205
00:44:47.560 --> 00:45:07.280
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): our most important, North Star here, we have to maintain the trust of the people whose sensitive information is in our systems, and so I want to ask you all about, how you approach this as stewards of public data, and as, in some cases, you know, in some ways, you're at the middle of, these, these partnership

206
00:45:07.280 --> 00:45:08.190
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): circles.

207
00:45:08.190 --> 00:45:31.790
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Where each of your data contributors… contributing agencies are responsible for the privacy of their data. And so, wondered how those conversations have been going, and any lessons or, best practices that you want to share with this group, especially in this challenging, complex moment where states are being faced with a lot of pressures, to turn over data.

208
00:45:31.790 --> 00:45:41.239
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): And a lot of community concerns about how data may and may not be used. So, it's an important topic in this moment, and, I think

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00:45:41.320 --> 00:45:57.729
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): for those of us thinking about expanding our data partnerships, that only introduces more complexity around this question of data privacy and communicating our approaches. So, I'll start with Susan, I think, and then we'll see if anyone else wants to chime in.

210
00:45:58.060 --> 00:46:10.349
Susan Smith: Sure, glad to talk a little bit about this. You know, as I, you know, noted before, that when I first, you know, heard about, I'm gonna, I apologize, I still call it P20 WIN, but I know it's, Data Link Connecticut. So, Scott, please.

211
00:46:10.350 --> 00:46:18.779
Susan Smith: forgive me, I'm probably gonna go back and forth with this, but it was always that concern that, we, particularly at the time when I was at the Department of Children and Families, we had

212
00:46:18.780 --> 00:46:37.489
Susan Smith: super, super sensitive information, you know, related to, you know, how a child might be abused or neglected. And then coming over to the Department of Social Services, where we have, a great deal of information about, folks, you know, medical history, particularly as medical as it relates to, you know, claims.

213
00:46:37.490 --> 00:47:01.029
Susan Smith: diagnoses, we'll have information about criminal history in terms of the enrollment process, determining eligibility, so, you know, looking at that form, there's a lot of really, really, really sensitive and sometimes even potentially stigmatizing information. So, it was always a concern of mine about, you know, we have to make sure that we're thinking about the individuals who are within those administrative data sets. It's not like what we collect

214
00:47:01.030 --> 00:47:13.860
Susan Smith: It's the who's within those administrative data sets. And so, really, for us, it was about making sure that we were aligned with our values, kind of horizontally and vertically, so that, we all are on the kind of the same page within the agency of.

215
00:47:13.860 --> 00:47:15.130
Susan Smith: If we're doing this.

216
00:47:15.130 --> 00:47:37.839
Susan Smith: how do we do this? You know, how do we do this in a way that we think is safe for our clients? You know, obviously we want to get good information to advance the care and quality of provision of service that we give them, but obviously we also want to make sure that we don't do anything that potentially disadvantages our clients that, in the future could impact or compromise

217
00:47:37.840 --> 00:47:50.919
Susan Smith: their interests, their liberty, their autonomy, their dignity. So that's really been something that we really have been thinking, that we continue to think about, and really was kind of the lens by which we kind of entered this.

218
00:47:50.920 --> 00:47:59.090
Susan Smith: I think very much about a quote, I think it was from W.B. Du Bois, that says, like, a system cannot fail those it was never meant to protect.

219
00:47:59.090 --> 00:48:11.860
Susan Smith: And so we really do try to kind of think about that, in how we, work with, you know, Connecticut Data Link. So when we're, when we're evaluating our requests, we're really thinking about.

220
00:48:11.920 --> 00:48:21.009
Susan Smith: Well, what are they asking? Again, going back to, obviously, it has to comport with our statutory requirement, which is 17B-90, in case anyone's interested in looking at it.

221
00:48:21.010 --> 00:48:37.369
Susan Smith: So as well as what level of information can we provide? Does someone need that level of granularity, so when we're talking about the data minimization? And then just recognizing that, again, because we are requesting very, very sensitive information from populations who

222
00:48:37.410 --> 00:48:39.649
Susan Smith: Generally, maybe very vulnerable.

223
00:48:39.780 --> 00:48:43.800
Susan Smith: Folks who are kind of unemployed, maybe under… unemployed, underemployed.

224
00:48:43.800 --> 00:49:08.760
Susan Smith: unhoused, dealing with they or a loved one in a serious medical condition, that there is an inherent power imbalance. So, you know, people may be providing information that they may not be comfortable, giving, but are doing so because, hey, you know, this is the only way I can feed my family, this is the only way I can get my medicine, this is the only way I can see a doctor. So, we also have to kind of recognize that, and thinking about, well, how do we balance that interest? Is that… I know sometimes, you know, Scott and his team, they're… I'm like the skunk at the lunch.

225
00:49:08.760 --> 00:49:24.520

Susan Smith: And I know they're like, here she comes, you know, raise my hand, and they're like, oh, nope, don't want to… but it's really from, you know, that perspective of, you know, these are our customers, we have to also, you know, be good advocates for them, and we also, you know, have to recognize that we have to maintain a certain level of trust

226
00:49:24.520 --> 00:49:30.690
Susan Smith: And partnership, you know, with those individuals, and we don't want it to do anything that would potentially

227
00:49:30.690 --> 00:49:54.149
Susan Smith: chill people's, help-seeking, you know, activities, or just, or having folks not being forthcoming with important information. So it really is trying to find that balance and, you know, and thinking about ways, that we can be good partners in this to, other stakeholders, but most importantly, our customers. So that's really, you know, and particularly now, that's something we're very, very, very

228
00:49:54.150 --> 00:49:59.449
Susan Smith: You know, sensitive about, and really do look at some of the requests with a heightened level of scrutiny about.

229
00:49:59.470 --> 00:50:09.510
Susan Smith: do you really need this? Because again, as folks know, you're integrating this data. You know, you're adding it to data from other agencies, you know, and particularly for populations where

230
00:50:09.510 --> 00:50:20.200
Susan Smith: you might be in a… who might be the single minority within a homogenous community, it does become potentially re-identifiable. You could kind of deductively deduce

231
00:50:20.200 --> 00:50:35.089
Susan Smith: that, okay, this is this kid, that kid's in foster care, because that's the only kid that looks like this, that's in this age. So those are all the kinds of things that at least go through my mind, and I imagine go through, you know, other, you know, Health and Human Services Agency representatives' minds as well, so…

232
00:50:35.680 --> 00:50:36.260
Susan Smith: That's kind of…

233
00:50:36.260 --> 00:50:46.739
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Thank you. Thank you so much for surfacing those considerations and how they play out in your partnership. I think that's really helpful. Does anyone want to add anything quick on the privacy front? I want to make sure I don't skip over…

234
00:50:48.090 --> 00:51:03.750
Trip Stallings: I think, the way we think about it with a lot of things is a three-legged stool, and so do we have a product in place? Do we have people in place and processes, whatever the it is? And for privacy, the product we're heading towards is a trusted execution environment. I know a number of states are setting those up.

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00:51:03.900 --> 00:51:21.159
Trip Stallings: From the people side, we have a requirement that there are privacy reps from every data source, not only available, but involved in any decision. And on the process side, for instance, we require review of all products before they go out the door. We don't censor them, but it gives everybody a shot. So, if we can…

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00:51:21.160 --> 00:51:27.300
Trip Stallings: If we can give ourselves multiple cuts at ensuring that privacy has been

honored, then we'll feel pretty good.

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00:51:28.960 --> 00:51:31.080
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Thank you, I think that's really helpful.

238
00:51:32.470 --> 00:51:52.419
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Briefly, since we are running out of time, I'd love to put an audience question to you all. If anyone has any thoughts on working with local partners, agencies, or major cities, so the kind of state-to-local partnership piece, which I heard you touch on, Sharon. I don't know if anyone wants to share anything about how that works in your context.

239
00:51:56.340 --> 00:52:18.970
Sharon Zanti: I could share one interesting tidbit, because again, in Iowa, we mainly service a state entity, Early Childhood Iowa, but they have 34 different local area boards, that run early childhood services. An interesting project we did about a year and a half ago, as we've been preparing to relaunch our data drive and do some new reports and research, is,

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00:52:19.050 --> 00:52:24.250
Sharon Zanti: us at I2D2 did some qualitative interviews with local area directors.

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00:52:24.250 --> 00:52:48.199
Sharon Zanti: to really try to dig in the weeds and go deeper about their data needs, their challenges they're experiencing with the current tools, and use that in crafting, some updated materials and tools that we're making. And that has actually been very helpful to us and to our state partners, and we've been able to draw on those interviews over and over again, of like, wait, but when they go to enter data, this is how

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00:52:48.200 --> 00:52:58.060
Sharon Zanti: This is how they're doing it at the local level, to a granular level that maybe our state partners, you know, hadn't gotten to in recent conversations with them.

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00:52:59.620 --> 00:53:14.160
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Thank you, that's super helpful. And I'm gonna give you guys a lightning round final question, which is, does anyone have any thoughts about national data sources that states are exploring, for meeting SNAP and Medicaid requirements? This is an audience question.

244
00:53:18.890 --> 00:53:23.559
Scott Gaul: I was hoping someone else on this call would answer, because we're asking the same questions.

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00:53:23.750 --> 00:53:25.129
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): That's helpful in and of itself, Scott.

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00:53:25.130 --> 00:53:26.569
Scott Gaul: I didn't put that in, but…

247
00:53:27.580 --> 00:53:29.410
Scott Gaul: Got an answer. It'd be great to know.

248
00:53:30.210 --> 00:53:49.199
Trip Stallings: It's a weak response, but it is incorporable. We're also involved in helping our HHS establish their approach to benefits through HR1 and a number of other things. I know HR1 includes the SNAP piece, too. We're not on that conversation yet, so we're built to accommodate additional outside data, but I think it's about as far as we've gone.

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00:53:53.300 --> 00:54:04.979
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): All right. Well, I want to say a huge thank you to our four panelists. I think I learned a lot, I think others on this call learned a lot, and we could talk to you for another hour, but we are out of time.

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00:54:04.980 --> 00:54:14.450
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): So, I am gonna turn this over to Farnell, to walk us through some closing next steps and, and final slides. And thank you all for your participation.

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00:54:16.060 --> 00:54:40.590
Farnel Maxime: Yes, thank you everyone for joining. Before we close out, we want to share that Wested will send y'all an email with the links to not just this webinar and other webinars, so that QR code will send you to that space. And additionally, we will have our white paper that will be linked in the chat, so if you want to learn more about this topic and the other topics.

252
00:54:40.590 --> 00:54:44.810
Farnel Maxime: topics from the other webinars, they will be shared there.

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00:54:44.810 --> 00:54:55.499
Farnel Maxime: We want to have our four-partner organization just speak a little bit about, the work that they do, so I'm gonna ask Della to start us off.

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00:54:56.720 --> 00:55:21.549
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Yeah, just wanted to say that we're here, and, we have a kind of funny little niche in this great ecosystem with these other national partners. Our work is really about using cross-sector data responsibly to improve lives, and, specifically, we work on designing, building, and improving cross-sector data sharing through data governance design, legal frameworks, and expanding

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00:55:21.550 --> 00:55:44.430
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): partnership model. So, you heard a lot about that today, what it looks like in practice. I always also like to just plug that we have a fantastic lawyer on our team, Deja Kemp, and also a national expert in data governance, Amy Hahn Nelson, who really lead our training and technical assistance portfolio. So we are here to help if you run into problems in practice and want to chat with some experts, and also with a peer community.

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00:55:44.430 --> 00:55:53.230
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): outside of the SLDS space, we have some great SLDS partners in our national network, but also a lot of human service partners, so it's a diverse, group.

257
00:55:56.620 --> 00:56:01.269
Farnel Maxime: We have Kate Akers here for, Data Quality Campaign.

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00:56:02.110 --> 00:56:27.069
Kate Akers: Hello, and good afternoon for many of you, so good morning. I'm Kate Akers with the Data Quality Campaign. The focus of my work is really on policy implementation and best practice, but Data Quality Campaign as a whole is a national, nonprofit, nonpartisan data advocacy organization. We advocate to change the role of data to ensure that data works for everyone navigating their education and work

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00:56:27.070 --> 00:56:43.399
Kate Akers: workforce journeys. This includes individuals, families, educators, communities, and policy makers, really ensuring that they have the data that they need to support everyone's journey through education in the workforce. So we've highlighted a couple of ways that we directly support states

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00:56:43.400 --> 00:56:56.460
Kate Akers: Including understanding the data landscape, advising on data policy and implementation. This is a lot of the work that I do, as well as our state team, and then we also connect that to our federal advocacy work as well.

261
00:56:56.460 --> 00:57:08.850
Kate Akers: Bring people together is one of my favorite parts of what DQC does. We support several networks that really bring together those really working to either help out at the state or at the national level.

262
00:57:09.110 --> 00:57:33.259
Kate Akers: And then finally, we support organizations working to communicate about data. So we really help organizations understand how to communicate this type of information, specifically around data. I loved all of the mentions today about privacy. We use centering privacy as one of the core ways that we even talk about data and communicate it. So if you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them. My contact information is on the slide.

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00:57:33.260 --> 00:57:39.810
Kate Akers: Thank you, and thank you so much for… to WestEd, to DISC, and to all of our other partners that have been a part of this process.

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00:57:42.340 --> 00:57:48.640
Farnel Maxime: Awesome. And I will just, share, the Education Commission for the States. Klaus.

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00:57:48.640 --> 00:58:12.560
Farnel Maxime: is their representative. Unfortunately, he could not make it today, but ECS, they work in supporting state leaders, to strengthen the education to workforce data systems. So one of the things they wanted to highlight was their 50-state comparison, which is a comprehensive summary of the integrated data systems

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00:58:12.560 --> 00:58:36.959
Farnel Maxime: And it provides a valuable understanding of the different approaches and structures of states and the work that they're doing across the nation. They also have the Education Workforce Framework that also is helping, policy makers and data advocates think about that work. And they have a, state data reporting dashboard

267
00:58:36.960 --> 00:58:49.779
Farnel Maxime: and Sustaining State's longitudinal data system. So, again, tools to help, policymakers and data advocates, as they think about their work in, the education workforce space.

268
00:58:50.210 --> 00:58:58.219
Farnel Maxime: And lastly, we have Leah to speak on the Data Integration Support Center.

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00:58:59.030 --> 00:59:07.419
Laia Tiderman: Hi, I'm Leah, I'm the project director with the Data Integration Support Center. We provide,

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00:59:07.750 --> 00:59:15.299
Laia Tiderman: State-specific solutions with a group of subject matter experts and best practices.

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00:59:15.320 --> 00:59:32.459
Laia Tiderman: Most of our services are provided at no cost to public agencies, and we provide those services across a number of policy areas, including AI, data governance, external legal support, system security, system modernization, and of course, privacy.

272
00:59:32.580 --> 00:59:39.609
Laia Tiderman: You can visit us at our website, email us if you would like technical assistance, and…

273
00:59:39.740 --> 00:59:41.559
Laia Tiderman: You can follow us on LinkedIn.

274
00:59:47.930 --> 00:59:55.089
Farnel Maxime: Thank you, everyone, for joining, and we will, follow up with the recording of this webinar soon.

275
00:59:57.860 --> 00:59:58.820
Della Jenkins, AISP (she/her): Thanks all!