



RILDS

RHODE ISLAND LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM

Rhode Island Longitudinal Data System Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 31, 2023 – 3:30 PM EST

Zoom Meeting: <https://uri-edu.zoom.us/j/94928527681>

Department of Administration, 4th Floor Executive Conference Room
1 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, 02908

Committee Members in Attendance:

- **Co-Chair**, Commissioner Shannon **Gilkey**, RIOPC
- **Co-Chair**, Director Jonathan **Womer**, DOA
- Director Matthew **Weldon**, DLT
- Director Brian **Tardiff**, DOIT
- Secretary Richard **Charest**, OHHS
- Director Brian **Daniels**, OMB
- Executive Director Dana **Brandt**, RILDS

Committee Members Absent:

- Commissioner Angélica **Infante-Green**, RIDE

Guests:

- Steve Raymond, OHHS
- Rebecca Lebeau, OHHS
- Scott Gausland, RIDE
- Kelvin Roldán, RIDE

Support Staff:

- Kayla Weststeyn, OMB
- Kim Pierson, RILDS
- Rockwell Richards, RILDS

1. Introductions (Co-Chairs)

Commissioner Gilkey welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the RILDS Executive Committee and introduced himself as co-chair along with Director Womer.

2. Presentation of Draft Statewide Integrated Data System Report Outline (Director Daniels)

Director Womer introduced Committee Member Daniels who presented the draft outline for the Statewide Integrated Data System Report as required by the RI Longitudinal Data System Act. See the full legislation here, beginning at Chapter 42-165:

<https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/billtext23/housetext23/article-003-sub-a.htm>

Committee Member Daniels discussed existing data systems in Rhode Island including RILDS, EOHHS Ecosystem, OMB Audit Fraud system, and RIGIS. Daniels highlighted the current state of data systems in Rhode Island and the efforts underway to accomplish policy goals such as reducing fraud, evaluation and data sharing with state agencies, data sharing with researchers, privacy and security protocols, and public transparency.

Daniels mentioned the future state of what an IDS could look like, referring to a presentation later in the agenda by Committee Member Tardiff. Daniels introduced the types of IDS models available including federated, centralized, or decentralized and proposed that the report would recommend what type of architecture and governance structure will be created. He also referred to the statutory requirements as outlined in RILDS Act (and parenthetically highlighted throughout the Plan Outline) to identify future operations including staffing, funding models, governance structures, and timeline implementation.

Daniels welcomed feedback from the other Committee members on the draft and outline and reminded Committee members that the report is due November 1, 2023. Co-Chair Womer echoed the invitation for contributions from the Committee to participate in the development of the report to fully represent the recommendations of the Committee. Guest from EOHHS, Rebecca Lebeau, volunteered to be involved in contributing to the report. Co-Chair Womer closed the item for discussion.

3. Discussion of FY24 RILDS Data Performance Projects (Co-Chairs)

Co-Chair Gilkey proposed the FY24 data performance projects to be completed by the RILDS Center as enacted by the RILDS Act 42-165-7.

Committee Member Daniels, framed the conversation with priorities from the Governor's RI 2030 plan (<https://www.ri2030.com/>), including improving educational outcomes to match or exceed Massachusetts, improving per capita income in all 39 cities and towns, and improving health outcomes (still being defined), to ensure that the proposed projects make progress in one of the three mentioned areas.

Committee Member Charest suggested healthcare workforce development, career trending, and capacity as a potential priority project. Committee Member Brandt highlighted the existing work of RILDS assessing health workforce and iterated RILDS's ability to continue this work (<https://rilds.org/data-stories-%26-reports>).

Gilkey introduced the 3 main areas of work ROPC is interested in:

1. Assessing how ROPC is spending their pandemic recovery resources particularly on RI Reconnect (<https://rireconnect.org/>) and the return on investment for the integrated wraparound services,
2. Evaluating outcomes of affordability mechanisms for higher education such as CCRI RI Promise (<https://ccri.edu/ripromise/>), RIC Hope Scholarship (<https://www.ric.edu/hope-scholarship>), Wavemaker Fellowship loan forgiveness program (<https://wavemaker.commercerci.com/>), and cost-reduction funding provided to all institutions of higher education including private and public institutions, and
3. Establishing an MOU with the private institutions leaders on sharing information with RILDS which has historically not been done in Rhode Island and prohibits the state from being able to look at outcomes such as workforce impact.

Guest Kelvin Roldán, RIDE, mentioned that RIDE has numerous ongoing related projects and a further conversation could be had to determine which projects would make the most sense at a future point in time. Guest Scott Gausland, RIDE, contributed to the discussion, highlighting the existing partnership between RILDS and RIDE. Gausland shared that RILDS is participating in a project funded by the Coleridge Initiative to track where university graduates from RI find employment out of state. Gausland mentioned that similar to the lack of private higher education data available to ROPC, RIDE does not have access to private K-12 student data in RI which provides a data gap. Roldán added that the private K-12 data access was outside of the scope of RIDE, but is under the Governor's priorities which are broader than just public K-12 and should be part of these larger conversations and bodies.

Committee Member Brandt discussed two Coleridge Initiative projects that the RILDS Center is funded to conduct on a multi-state level including (1) a project dubbed “brain-drain” looking at students educated in RI and whether or not they remain and work in RI and (2) a teacher workforce report to understand if states are producing enough teachers in high-need areas. Roldán added a potential project (with private K-12 data needed) to determine if the fluctuating student enrollment populations across the state, which has financial impacts for districts, is due to entering into private K-12 as opposed to leaving the state. Roldán discussed the ability for RIDE to monitor students as they move across public K-12 statewide, but not into private school settings.

Co-Chair Gilkey asked for final comments before closing the topic to move to the next agenda item.

4. Presentation of Integrated Data System Stand Up and Investments (Director Tardiff)

Committee Member Brian Tardiff, DOIT, presented the Enterprise Federated Data Program Vision. Tardiff proposed the opportunity to establish a federated topology that would allow agencies to publish data in a private statewide catalog and to allow secure subscription permissions by other RI agencies with data contracts. Tardiff defined the vision as providing timely and secure access to accurate data for authorized users to inform and drive efficient and effective government operations.

Tardiff stated that this zero-copy data integration method is more cost-effective than building one data lake for state data.

Gilkey asked Tardiff about the security difference between a federated and large data lake option. Tardiff answered that across the state IT enterprise there is a shared responsibility model with cyber security. Similarly, in the federated model, cyber security is pushed to the data arms of each entity, putting responsibility across the enterprise with each entity’s staff experts on the technology architecture, data sets and classifications, and appropriate controls around the data. Tardiff described the model as a permissions-driven typology.

Gausland asked for clarification on the term “zero-copy data integration”. Tardiff explained that no files would be transmitted, but read-only access would be granted to files to execute the work.

Lebeau asked for clarification on how individual data matching would occur when interagency clearance is granted. Tardiff stated that he couldn’t currently answer that, but it would need to be determined with the federated governance team (described in

the presentation as Federated Computational Governance). Lebeau elevated the importance of focusing on matching methods so that the federated model can be operational. She explained that without matching, the federated model represents what RI has today: data in different systems, governed by respective bodies, and individual level data that cannot be linked across systems.

Daniels cited privacy concerns around linking individuals. Lebeau suggested that linking individual data, discussed in the aggregate, is important to understanding big picture issues in RI. Guest Steve Raymond, OHHS, elaborated on the importance of linked data and described the complexities of person matching.

Tardiff concluded that his team will be looking for “critical success criteria” and data use cases from the Committee members and their agencies to ensure that the technology that is developed will meet their needs.

5. Appointment of Governance Committee representatives (Dana Brandt)

Committee Member Dana Brandt, RILDS, presented an overview of the proposed RILDS Data Governance Program – a three tiered hierarchy of governing bodies made up of the Executive Committee, a Governance Committee and a Stewards Working Group.

Daniels highlighted the importance of the governance structure, particularly the Governance Committee made up of data experts. Brandt requested that the Committee Members provide to her the names of the representatives that they are appointing to serve on the Governance Committee to represent their agency. The Stewards Working Group was tabled to a future meeting.

6. Delegation of Authority for RILDS Center’s data request fee (Dana Brandt)

Brandt explained that per the RILDS Act legislation, the Executive Committee is tasked with approving the RILDS Center data request fee policy. She noted that RILDS is in transition from the University of Rhode to RIOPC and has existing projects underway that will need to be continued. Brandt proposed for the Committee to delegate authority to RIOPC and the RILDS Center for one first year to continue with ongoing projects. Daniels requested additional information on the existing fee structure before voting. Daniels proposed a transition period (four months) where RIOPC has authority until January 1, 2024 while the RILDS Center and RIOPC gather more information to bring back to the Committee.

Daniels moved to amend the proposed one-year delegation of authority for setting the fee structure to RIOPC and the RILDS Center to four months through January 1, 2024. Weldon seconded. The Committee unanimously voted to approve the motion. Absent was Committee Member Angélica Infante-Green.

7. Approve Executive Committee meeting schedule (Director Brandt)

Brandt proposed the annual calendar for the remainder of 2023 suggesting that the Committee meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2:00pm for September, October, and November. These dates are September 26, October 24, and November 28, 2023. Gilkey motioned and Charest seconded the motion. The vote was approved unanimously, passing 7-0. Absent was Committee Member Angélica Infante-Green.

8. Adjournment (Co-Chairs)

Charest motioned to adjourn the meeting. Daniels seconded. The vote was approved unanimously. The Committee meeting ended at 4:54pm EST.