



Rhode Island Longitudinal Data System Data Governance Committee

DRAFT Minutes

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 – 2:00 PM

Meeting Link: <https://teams.microsoft.com>

This meeting was RECORDED

RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, Room 207
80 Washington St, Providence, RI, 02903

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

DCYF – Jane **Pellegren** (*Delegate*)

DLT – Megan **Swindal**

DOA – Vincent **Flood**

ETSS – *Absent*

OHHS – Rebecca **Bucci** (*Delegate*)

OMB – *Absent*

RIDE – Mike **Waterman**

RILDS – Sarah **Cote** (*Delegate*)

RIOPC – Shannon **Gilkey** (*Delegate*)

RISOS – Jessica **Cigna**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Harris **Hameed** (*Remote ETSS*); Kevin **Simpson** (*Remote OMB*).

GUESTS:

Megan Hamlin-Black (RIOPC); Zachary Saul (RIOPC); and Dr. Emily House (Red Lilac Education Advisors).

1. WELCOME

Gilkey opened the meeting at 2:04 PM, welcomed attendees, and confirmed a quorum. He requested a motion to approve the agenda. **Cigna** motioned, **Waterman** seconded, and the agenda was unanimously approved.

He announced the RILDS Center open positions and ongoing search processes.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Gilkey requested a motion to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2024, meeting as presented. **Cigna** motioned, **Pellegren** seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

IN FAVOR: Bucci, Cigna, Cote, Flood, Gilkey, Pellegren, Swindal, Waterman

OPPOSED: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Hameed, Simpson

3. DISCUSSION of & VOTE on Data Requests – *RIOPC Affordability Mechanisms Study*

Gilkey introduced the request for approval of the RIOPC Affordability Mechanisms Study and called for a motion. **Cigna** motioned, **Swindal** seconded, and discussion followed.

Cigna inquired whether the required data for the seven financial aid programs was available. **Pierson** confirmed that the data is new and has received preliminary approval but has not yet been transferred to the RILDS Center.

Cigna asked if the data spans the requested decade. **Pierson** clarified that availability varies by program (e.g., Hope Scholarship began in 2023, Promise II funding in 2017).

Cigna sought clarification on agreements between RILDS Center and RIOPC, the parent entity for the Center. **Pierson** explained that agreements are being established with individual institutions (CCRI, RIC, URI) and a separate agreement with RIOPC for any direct RIOPC data.

Cigna expressed concerns about workload, project prioritization and securing agreements within the tight timeline. **Pierson** acknowledged staff capacity limitations and noted that the data collection aligns with the SLDS FY23 grant, minimizing additional burden, and the administrative work of securing the additional legal agreements will fall primarily on Pierson rather than analytic staff.

Cigna inquired about a control group. **Dr. House** clarified that Phase I is descriptive (no control group), while Phase II will address comparative analysis. **Cigna** suggested that

the language on the population requested be expanded beyond just those receiving financial aid to include the control population needed for Phase II as well.

Pellegren asked for confirmation that this was retrospective study design and if all study members have adequate time to reach their outcome status. **Dr. House** confirmed that the study is retrospective and stated that it depends on the program (e.g., newer programs lack long-term workforce outcomes).

Pellegren inquired about students receiving multiple aid types and how that would be handled in the Difference-in-Differences analyses. **Dr. House** explained that the study will assess the magnitude of each program's impact with Phase II incorporating this consideration into the comparison group analysis.

Waterman asked if FAFSA data would be included. **Pierson** stated that it is not anticipated but could not confirm until the data elements are transferred to the RILDS Center.

Swindal asked how the study accounts for pandemic-related employment impacts. **Dr. House** stated that the impact of the pandemic would be taken into account.

Bucci inquired whether the financial aid data would be binary (yes/no), include funding amounts, and what alternative to a Difference-in-Differences analysis type would be considered. **Dr. House** stated that while a yes/no approach would be the first step she anticipates using amounts to analyze a "dosage effect" done descriptively at first and then possibly a threshold or discontinuity analysis.

Pellegren asked about tracking employment outcomes over time. **Dr. House** confirmed the goal is to track outcomes at 1, 3, 5, and 10 years but noted that 10-year data may not be available for newer programs.

Pellegren asked if this study would be repeated. **Gilkey** confirmed that affordability remains a top priority, and the study is intended as a baseline for ongoing evaluation.

Gilkey called for a vote to approve the RIOPC Affordability Mechanisms Study, with an amendment to include a comparison group population in Phase II. The Data Contributing Agencies unanimously approved.

IN FAVOR: Cigna, Gilkey, Pellegren, Swindal, Waterman

4. Discussion & Approval of CY25 Meeting Schedule

The committee reviewed the proposed bi-monthly 2025 schedule, meeting on the second Wednesday February, April, June, August, October, and December at 2:00 PM.

Gilkey called for a motion to approve the schedule. **Cigna** motioned, **Waterman** seconded, and the schedule was unanimously approved.

IN FAVOR: Bucci, Cigna, Cote, Flood, Gilkey, Pellegren, Swindal, Waterman

OPPOSED: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Hameed, Simpson

5. Adjournment

With no further business, the December 18, 2024, RILDS Data Governance Committee meeting adjourned at 2:37 PM EST.