



September 16 Meeting Notes 2025

Government Data Advisory Board (GDAB)

Government Data Advisory Board (GDAB)

Tuesday, September 16 · 12:00 am - 1:30 pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84676861665?pwd=M2hmSWNTRzNXSS9pZFFFdIJsS2JHZz09>

Type of Meeting **GDAB 2025 Meeting: September 16, 2025**

Facilitator Amy Bhhikha

Note Taker Katherine Hochevar

Timekeeper

Attendees: Clint Andrews, Marcia Bohannon, Loni Clark, Rachel Davis, Marisol Larez, Amelia Larsen, Katie Nelson, Stephanie Pugliese, Rich Schliep, Stephanie Stout-Oswald, Michael Ganzel, Amanda Neal, Curtis Lee

Agenda Items
Open
Call to Order
Amy Bhikha, Chair
New Business
JFF Lumina- Jess Kostelnik
Lumina Foundation: A national nonprofit and thought leader in higher education. - Recently shifted focus from post-secondary degrees to "credentials and value," recognizing the growth of short-term, non-degree credentials. - The goal is to determine what "value" looks like in the broader credential universe (beyond traditional degrees) and connect people to credentials needed for success.
Colorado Statistics: - Colorado was previously the highest credentialed state, now in the top four with the adjusted definition of "credentials of value." - Lumina has funded a project with 12 states (including Colorado, in partnership with Jobs for the Future) to define and analyze credentials of value.
Colorado's Approach: Many ongoing credential projects across state agencies (Colorado Workforce Development Council, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Higher Education, Department of Education, Statewide Longitudinal Data System).
Goal: Align frameworks and create a unified state approach to credentialing, determining which credentials to incentivize.
Challenges:

- Conflicting measures of quality, different funding streams (WIOA, Senate Bill 25-315, Higher Education Funding Formula, Workforce Pell, Perkins), and a dispersed landscape for users to navigate.

Next Steps:

- Identify key players for a smaller working group, map out stackability definitions, and align required funding streams and eligibility criteria. Hoping to inform future SLDS requests and improve data collection strategy.

Long-term Vision:

- Support non-traditional pathways, demonstrate comparable value to traditional higher education, and ensure state investments in credentials are data-driven and lead to employment outcomes. Empower consumers to make informed decisions about their career pathways.

Prescribed Burn Working Group Request- Alice Huyler

Alice Huyler (OIT) presented a request from the legislature's Wildfire Matters Committee.

Objective:

- Respond to the legislature's question about improving prescribed burn outcomes through enhanced data sharing, specifically considering a dedicated data portal.

Information Needed:

- What data agencies are currently collecting and sharing.
- How data sharing occurs.
- Identifiable gaps and their sources (legal, funding constraints).

End Result:

- A report summarizing the current status and suggestions for improvement.
- Working Group: Alice is seeking members from agencies like Public Safety, Natural Resources, Transportation, and Higher Education.

Discussion:

GDAB members requested more information, particularly a summary of outcomes and scope, to engage appropriate people within agencies. Alice clarified that the ask is specific to prescribed burns (planned mitigation efforts), not emergency wildfire situations. The scope is not precisely defined yet, and any relevant information from agencies. GDAB members suggested they be provided a more detailed blurb on the end goal and expected outcomes to facilitate a vote on forming the working group.

Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Update- Dr. Heather McGillivray

- Data addenda for Phase 1 use case is out for final review and expected to be signed by end of September. Once signed, data flow will begin.
- Contract signed with system build vendor, Focal Point, who has already started work.
- Branding for the SLDS is underway (name, tagline, logo possibilities to be presented to the governing board).

Next Steps:

- Building a shared research framework and future roadmap, starting with the governing board.
- In-person celebration and work session in October to co-construct the future of SLDS.
- Hiring a data engineer and data analyst (selection process underway).
- System build officially begins in October.
- Next governing board meeting is Friday, October 19th.

Overarching Use Cases:

- Participation and completion in programs.
- Participation in multiple programs and their effects.
- Impact on different demographic and disaggregated groups in Colorado.

Phase 1 Use Case Groupings:

- High School Experiences: AP, IB, concurrent enrollment, CTE, PTEC, Ascent, CDIP, and their outcomes on post-secondary and wage outcomes.

Educational Attainment:

- High school diploma to PhD, and wage outcomes (certificates primarily at higher education institutes, not broad credentialing).
- Unique Post-Secondary Programs: WIOA, CORE, apprenticeships, and their effect on wage outcomes.

Timeline: Aiming to publish the first report by September 15, 2026.

AI Strategy and Policy Look Back- Amy Bhikha

Amy discussed a review of the state's AI strategy and policy, a year after its implementation.

Objective:

- Evaluate what has been learned from existing AI projects (210 known use cases) and inform future strategy.

Focus:

- Benefits realized (time savings, new services, soft metrics).
- Accuracy and reliability.
- Potential for replication across agencies.
- Future plans for projects (stop, continue as is, or scale).

Action:

- A template was sent to product directors last week, with a deadline of tomorrow (October 18th) for submission, to prepare a presentation for the governor's office next Tuesday.

Discussion:

GDAB members expressed concerns about the short turnaround time, impacting the quality of data submitted by agencies. Amy acknowledged the timing constraints, set by the governor's office, and offered support from Chan Voonng (new AI program manager) or herself to assist agencies. GDAB members inquired if the feedback gathering included agencies' use of Google Gemini and it was confirmed it does.

Public Health Data Modernization Initiative- Christen Lara

Focus:

- Public health side of CDPHE, addressing critical data exchanges across the public health landscape.
- Current infrastructure is built program-specific over decades, leading to fragmented data reporting (e.g., immunizations versus birth records).
- Lack of an overarching data strategy across the public health landscape.

Goal:

- Improve information exchange to aid public health response.

Colorado's Approach: Strengthening the public health data ecosystem to improve public health decision-making.

- Simplest meaning: Getting access to the right public health data to people at the right time (includes infrastructure, data standards).
- Overarching Goals:
 - Response-ready in crisis and non-crisis situations.
 - Building strong partnerships (decentralized public health model).
 - Intentionally building a shared public health data ecosystem (versus ad hoc).

Advisory Committee:

- Composed of senior leadership from CDPHE, OIT (including Amy and Catherine), Office of eHealth Innovation, local public health agencies, and tribal members.
- Role: Shape and drive a unified approach to public health data in Colorado.
- Challenge: Programs often operate in silos, making cross-departmental coordination difficult.

Assessment Findings:

- Comprehensive assessment across all public health programs within CDPHE and local partners, with OIT's data, solution, and business architects.
- Results: Data is often hard to find, access, and use; feels outdated; and users lack the right tools. This is due to many different programmatic approaches to data management, leading to inconsistency.

Public Health Data Domains:

- A draft framework to think about public health data outside of programmatic boundaries, focusing on the life cycle of an individual or population and data generated that affects their health.

Recommendations (Four Core): Shift from a program-centric data management approach to a service-oriented model within CDPHE.

- Develop and support a singular framework for monitoring public health data (led by the Advisory Committee).
- Receive priorities from the advisory committee and develop/deploy cross-cutting data and information services responsive to those priorities (acknowledges limitations of individual programs).
- Focus on strong financial management, aiming for budget neutrality in three years for shared data services (emphasizing process and change management over solely new infrastructure).
- Acknowledge the need for workforce development and upskilling to support the utilization of new technologies and processes.

Implementation Timeline:

- Next few months: Focus on first cohort of public health scenarios, flesh out the data framework, stand up working groups.
- January: Selection of initial services to be developed at CDPHE (internal design phase).
- Project runs through end of calendar year 2027.
- Goal: Institutionalize the process of reflecting on public health priorities and responding as an organization to ensure sustainability beyond current funding.

Discussion:

GDAB members asked how the GDAB group could support these efforts. Christen mentioned the ongoing work on governance structure for data and service management at CDPHE, and that Eric Brown (CDPHE's data governance lead) is involved. She noted that CDPHE is still figuring out how to make shared decisions. GDAB members were curious about the budget-neutral approach and requested to discuss it offline, particularly regarding the spreadsheets used for analysis. Christen was happy to share more, noting that process and change management improvements can significantly enhance data access without heavy financial burden.

GDAB Meeting Closing Remarks

- Open Discussion Upcoming topics
- Recap Action Items
- Future Agenda Items
- Adjourn Public Meeting,

Amy Bhikha, Chair

