Agency Priority Goal Action Plan

Combined Data Analyses

Goal Leader: Mona Siddiqui, Office of the Chief Technology Officer (CTO)

Overview

Goal Statement

- o Increase combined analysis of disparate datasets in order to achieve better insights. By September 30, 2019 HHS will develop and implement an enterprise wide data governance model. This will enable more efficient and effective processes for sharing inter-agency data beyond a dataset's primary purpose. Three use cases of inter-agency data sharing through this process will be tested.

Challenges

- o Siloes - HHS has rich data assets that are collected and maintained by separate agencies within the Department. In many instances, Operating Divisions may have specific authorities or mandates to collect data, which makes joint collection or integration of data collection activities difficult.

- o Statistical agencies and units must adhere to legal provisions (e.g., Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act) that can inhibit data sharing. HHS programs and services can also be restricted from sharing data by legal provisions. For example, the National Directory of New Hires is a valuable data asset, but it contains the highest degrees of protection.

- o CMS, IHS and other Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act covered entities must adhere to HIPAA regulations for the disclosure and use of covered health information

- o Agencies within HHS each serve specific missions and developed systems over time to address their unique needs. However, reexamining the underlying infrastructure can help identify gaps, areas for improvement, and efficiencies. Specifically, HHS needs to develop and implement an enterprise wide data governance strategy.

Overview

Opportunity

- o Multi-sector issues—when an issue touches more than one agency or crosses into multi-disciplines then joint research and analyses occur and benefit everyone involved.

- o Technology—advances in computing and IT infrastructure allow for secure sharing of information and enable collaborative work.

- o Methodology—advances in statistics, machine learning, data mining, and geographic analysis enable disparate datasets to be combined to reveal new insights and find patterns.

Leadership

Core Team

  o APG Goal Leader: Mona Siddiqui, Data Initiative Lead, Office of the CTO, IOS

  o Reimagine HHS: Leveraging the Power of HHS Data Core Team

Goal Structure & Strategies

o HHS agencies have experience conducting combined analyses and linking datasets together (both internal and external). However, these are often treated as "one-offs", experimental, or exploratory rather than a tool to support the overall mission. Encouraging agency collaboration to conduct this work will require providing tools, devoting staff time, and establishing a framework that benefits all involved.

o An HHS-wide data governance plan will establish ownership and rules for data assets and improve data quality and uniformity.

o A streamlined data use agreement infrastructure will enable more seamless interagency data sharing.

o Developing an infrastructure that allows for secure and simple sharing of data assets will enable agencies and staff to collaborate on issues that affect multiple agencies such as the opioid epidemic.

o Comparing commonly used data architectures and data management tools to open source software and file formats could reveal more efficient ways to analyze and manipulate data assets. Adopting and using flexible open source solutions would also increase the Department's ability to partner with the private sector.

Summary of Progress – FY 2019 Q3

o The Goal Team has developed a scope of work and will be contracting for additional expertise.

    o A contract is expected to be awarded by approximately August 31, 2019.

    o Three use cases (employment for disabled Americans, opioid crisis, value-based care) are planned to be tested and refined for prototype development during FY 2020 Q2.

Key Milestones

Milestone Summary			
Key Milestone	**Milestone Due Date***	**Milestone Status**	**Comments**
Develop framework for Department-wide Data Governance Plan	Q4, FY 2018	Complete	The framework for the Department-wide Data Governance Plan was completed by the end of October 2018.
Deploy three pilots to test the process and infrastructure	Q1, FY 2019	Ongoing	Contract for deployment and testing set to be awarded by Aug. 31, 2019.
Implement Enterprise wide data governance model	Q1, FY 2019	Ongoing	New data governance work groups will begin to be established in Q4 2019.
Development of Department-wide Data Use Agreements (DUAs)	Q4, FY 2019	On track	The Goal Team is working with partners across HHS, including the HHS Data Council, to identify elements to include in DUAs.
Create scope of work to solicit proposals for technology platform	Q4, FY 2019	On track	Submissions to be accepted and contract awarded in Q4.

*Previous Action Plan documentation described expected APG milestone progress to be completed during quarters of the Calendar Year, rather than the Fiscal Year. For the Q4 update, the Key Milestones Table has been converted to reflect APG progress during quarters of the Fiscal Year.