



Governance Focus Area

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October 2021

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Recommendations Summary

Focus Area Highlights

1. Guiding Governance Framework. The governance structure of the NSDS should address the nine identified elements of a successful entity: (1) transparency & trust, (2) accessibility, (3) independence, (4) legal authority to protect privacy and confidentiality, (5) legal and regulatory authority to collect data from agencies, (6) scalable functionality, (7) sustainability, (8) oversight & accountability, and (9) intergovernmental support.

2. Transparency and Trust. The Committee recommends a governance structure for the data service that is organized to support radical transparency. The first step is to build a strong program of data stewardship that has the goals of providing maximum access to data while assuring maximum protections for privacy and confidentiality and preventing data breaches. The governance structure must promote transparency by: (1) demonstrating accountability to the public about how the data are being used and the evidence being built, (2) documenting secure data linkage methods, (3) facilitating secure data access and analysis, and (4) advancing the use of privacy enhancements while maintaining interoperability of the high-value data.

Recommendations Summary

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3. Independence. The governance structure should assure the independence of the NSDS, but maintain strong accountability for efficient, high quality operations, and responsiveness to cross-agency policy priorities.

4. Legal and Regulatory Authority. The governance structure should enable the NSDS to maintain standard legal agreements, metadata, and other elements where lack of standard approaches have led to delays and barriers to evidence building.

Greatest Success and Challenge

Focus Area Discussion

- **Greatest success**
 - Identifying use cases: Education and workforce data – completion rates; Credentialing; Health data – mortality
- **Greatest challenge**
 - Defining an organizational structure

Year 2 Roadmap

Focus Area Plans

Once the entity's structure is identified, the Committee will continue to:

Develop the details of governance and present more detailed recommendations.

Identify value proposition based on use cases.

Identify administrative obstacles that can be resolved by a group or agency positioned to have a “whole of government” view of relevant issues, including the development of a robust catalog or repository of standards documents, inter-agency agreements, and data sharing policies and procedures. These activities would be pursued as an intermediary step toward establishing common data and meta-data standards; common language related to data collection, storage, and sharing (e.g., research participant consent forms, Systems of Records Notices, data sharing agreements); and broadly accepted policies and procedures for data sharing and linkage.

Identify the best means for the NSDS to support a primary coordinating function with a research function. This will address how to coordinate across state, local and federal entities along with facilitating and promoting research and advances. Additionally, the Committee will further develop potential mechanisms to incentivize reporting on Federally-sponsored programs.