

Minnesota Eligibility Technology System Executive Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Details

- June 27, 2017
- 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Room 1100, Minnesota Senate Building, 95 University Ave W, St. Paul, MN 55155

Participants

Voting Members

- Janet Goligowski, Stearns County - absent
- Deborah Huskins, Hennepin County - present
- Chuck Johnson, DHS - present
- Kari Koob, MNSure - present
- Nathan Moracco, DHS - present
- Allison O'Toole, MNSure - present

Non-Voting Members

- Jesse Oman, MNIT - present
- Bill Pal-Freeman, MNIT - present

Guests

- Greg Poehling, MNIT
- Jamin Johnson, MNIT
- Stephanie Grisell, MNSure

Agenda Items

Call to Order & Welcome

Chuck Johnson, DHS

Chuck Johnson, ESC Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Members introduced themselves.

Chuck noted that the role of the METS ESC is to ensure the IT support is in place to provide health care to Minnesotans. Despite any uncertainties that may exist at the state and federal level concerning the Affordable Care Act (ACA), this group will continue to focus on current law and system improvements.

Jesse Oman introduced the new Chief Business Technology Officer (CBTO) of MNIT, Bill Pal-Freeman, to the committee.

Administrative Items

MOTION: Allison O'Toole moved to approve the draft [April 11 meeting minutes](#). Deborah Huskins seconded. All voting members present voted in favor and the motion was approved.

Chuck informed committee members that the Meetings Work Group had come to the conclusion a July ESC meeting was not necessary. He noted the August meeting remained on the schedule but may need to be rescheduled to a different date in August.

METS IT Program Status Update and Quarterly Financial Report

Greg Poehling, Director of Program Management Division, MNIT Services @ DHS/MNsure

Jamin Johnson, Director of Enterprise Planning and Administration, MNIT Services @ DHS/MNsure

Greg Poehling of MNIT presented the [ESC Update](#).

Greg began with providing an update on the Summer Release. The Summer Release successfully deployed over the weekend of June 17. The planned Supervisor Workspace and Organization Location Structure functionality was held back from the Summer Release due to a severe code defect. Greg provided the ESC members with [a handout](#) providing a high level look at the projects included in the Summer Release.

Greg noted the work that MNIT, DHS, and the counties were completing to prepare for the annual submission to the federal government for funding. The implementation advanced planning document (IAPD) update for federal fiscal year 2018 was a request for funding for Medicaid-related development work. As in previous years, METS and the integrated service delivery system (ISDS) would be submitting a joint request for eligible Enrollment & Eligibility projects for the 2018 federal fiscal year, which runs October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018.

Greg reviewed the projects MNIT, DHS, and the counties were focusing on in the IAPD, indicating many of the projects were focused on public program functionality. Chuck asked if the projects listed on slide five of the slide deck would all be included in the IAPD. Greg indicated the plan was to have all projects listed on the IAPD, but that may change due to other factors.

Greg moved on to reviewing the METS roadmap and the fall release update. Looking ahead to the fall release, project work is planned on the MMIS interface, as well as continued work on notices, carrier integration, triggering of failure to reconcile (FTR) via the Federal Hub, and defect fixes.

Allison noted a point of clarification on the date of releases for the fall. Currently, CMS had dictated open enrollment 2018 would run November 1 to December 15, 2017. Allison noted that as a state-based exchange, MNsure had flexibility around creating a special enrollment

period to extend open enrollment. Greg added MNsure has been in constant communications with MNIT regarding the start date of open enrollment 2018.

Chuck asked if there were public program projects in the winter release that were time-sensitive that might create issues if the winter release were delayed to the end of December. Greg was unsure, but noted that the sooner the winter release could be deployed, the better for periodic data matching. Currently, Greg noted, DHS was aiming for periodic data match by April 1, 2018, which would mean MNIT would want to run the first batches by January 2018.

Greg continued the presentation by providing an update on the carrier integration project roadmap. The 1095-A reporting with enrollment caps project had received final sign-off and technical design work was underway. The project would be split into two phases, with phase one timed for the fall release and focused on 1095-A monthly and annual reporting. Phase two of 1095-A reporting with enrollment caps project was planned for the winter release and would include a way to enable consumers to check the second lowest cost silver plan (SLCSP) value while filing their taxes and claiming their premium tax credit (PTC). The project scope for EDI fixes and enhancements in the fall release included two components, effective dates and reason codes, which would allow the carriers to consume the EDI file and streamline their operational processes.

Greg moved on to the public program roadmap. The roadmap depicts the ongoing efforts that relate to public program work, specifically MAXIS to METS migration, METS-MMIS interface improvements, and MinnesotaCare premiums. The MAXIS to METS migration project began last fall. It would migrate cases with renewal dates through September 2017, with the final processing expected to conclude by the end of October. The MinnesotaCare premiums project would develop and implement changes and refinements in existing MinnesotaCare billing and payment tracking functionality as requested by DHS or identified by technical staff to eliminate manual workarounds.

Finally, Greg completed his presentation by reviewing the program status dashboard. The program status was as of June 23, 2017. There were two projects in red, supervisor workspace and infrastructure improvements. There were also still two projects in yellow, MMIS interface and carrier integration. The MMIS interface project was reporting yellow due to issues in two different tracks of work within the redesign project. Carrier integration was in yellow due to tight development timeframes for the EDI fixes and enhancements portion of the project.

Nathan Moracco asked if either of the projects in yellow were trending toward green. Greg indicated their status was improving, but they remained in yellow for their cautionary status.

Jamin presented the [METS IT Quarterly Fiscal Report](#) for the state's third quarter, ending March 31, 2017. Chuck noted this report is submitted to the Legislative Oversight Committee. Jamin reviewed the purpose of each page of the fiscal report, noting the first page indicated the statutory requirement and provided definitions, the second page indicated the budget view, and the final page outlined the quarterly details of the current state fiscal year.

Jamin noted this quarterly fiscal report did show encumbrances and estimated spending as requested at the April ESC meeting. Additionally, he indicated the state uses encumbrances as a budget control, so this fiscal report was indicating the cap of spending and might not reflect a true reality of the budget. Finally, the METS budget was broken down into two parts, a development component and an operations component. Jamin noted that both components were undergoing change due to the transition of METS development from phase one to phase two.

Jamin provided committee members with a review of the four year budget overview on the second page. Jamin pointed out under the “development expenditures,” for fiscal year 2018, there was a lack of alignment between the federal fiscal year and the state fiscal year and the numbers would be adjusted as appropriate. The current number is the fourth quarter of the federal fiscal year.

Deb noted the fiscal year 2019 currently showed no dollars appropriated for development, which would be an ongoing challenge for the counties.

Jamin moved on to the third page of the report, which showed the five quarterly reports for the federal fiscal year 2017 budget. He noted the committee members will see a fifth quarter, which should be treated as a cash basis. There was also a year-to-date expenditures column which estimated encumbrances. The column to the right illustrated estimated fiscal year expenditures and encumbrances and the final column was the estimated balance.

Allison pointed out the importance of the federal funding while it remains in the budget and stressed the importance of using those federal grant dollars before they expired.

Chuck inquired about the staff augmentation in relation to encumbrances and the difficulty for Jamin to pin down. Jamin agreed and noted the biggest risk of variances was in the staff augmentation.

Jamin continued with the presentation and acknowledged the delayed spending in the report with Greg’s roadmap presented earlier in the meeting. There were projects that had a projected start time and work might not begin on those projects until fiscal year 2018, so there was a lag in the budget. However, Jamin noted MNIT was generally on track.

Allison asked about the balance of the \$2 million of federal funding and if MNIT had the capacity to spend it. Jamin indicated he would need to complete a deep dive into the budget related to the \$2 million. He noted he believed the federal grant funds were already encumbered for fiscal year 2018.

MOTION: Allison moved to approve the quarterly fiscal report. Deborah seconded. There were no objections and the fiscal report was approved.

New Business

ESC Members

Chuck provided a legislative update from DHS. He noted there was a change in the start date for periodic data match for public programs, but it did not affect the current IT schedule. DHS also received significant funding for system modernization. Finally, there was no action taken on how the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was being implemented in Minnesota.

Deborah added that the counties had been seeking additional state funding for METS; however, that legislative action did not pass and the counties would now have to work with significantly less development money.

Allison provided an update to the ESC about MNSure's activities. She noted she had been travelling the state illustrating to consumers that MNSure was still here and ready to help. MNSure was still in a special enrollment period until the start of open enrollment 2018. Allison noted that despite the political talk about the ACA on the federal level, if a consumer was in coverage and paying premiums, his or her 2017 coverage would not be affected regardless of federal action.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn

MOTION: Allison moved to adjourn. Deborah seconded. There were no objections and the meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.