

Minnesota Eligibility Technology System Executive Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Details

- May 28, 2019
- 10 a.m. - noon
- Room 1100, Minnesota Senate Building, 95 University Ave. W., St. Paul, MN 55155

Participants

Voting Members

- Nate Clark, MNSure - present
- Janet Goligowski, Stearns County - present (via phone)
- Deborah Huskins, Hennepin County - present
- Chuck Johnson, DHS - present
- Kari Koob, MNSure - present
- Marie Zimmerman, DHS - present

Non-Voting Members

- Jon Eichten, MNIT - present
- Greg Poehling, MNIT - present

Guests

- Lisa Koenig, MNIT
- Jackie Hippen, MNIT
- Marty Cammack, DHS
- Marie Harmon, MNSure

Agenda Items

Call to Order & Welcome

Greg Poehling, MNIT

Greg Poehling, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Members introduced themselves. Janet Goligowski was not yet in attendance. Greg reviewed the meeting agenda.

Administrative Items

MOTION: Deborah Huskins moved to approve the draft February 22, 2019, meeting minutes. Marie Zimmerman seconded. All voting members present voted in favor and the motion was approved.

METS IT Program Status Update and Quarterly Financial Report

Lisa Koenig, Program Management Division Director, MNIT Services @ DHS/MNsure

Jackie Hippen, Interim Director of Enterprise Planning and Administration, MNIT Services @ DHS/MNsure

Marty Cammack, Director, Financial Operations Division, DHS

METS IT Program Status Update

Lisa Koenig of MNIT presented the [METS ESC Update slide deck](#).

Lisa began by reviewing the spring release recap. She noted that since the ESC last met, the METS spring release was deployed as scheduled on the weekend of April 6 and 7, with the system available by early the morning of Monday, April 8, as planned. Additionally, after the spring implementation, Lisa noted the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services coordinated a directive from the Department of Homeland Security to modify the file format as part of the VLP verification process. The project incorporated this request and deployed on May 22.

Lisa advised that although the project has delivered the planned code and the Homeland Security change, it will appear as “in progress” rather than “complete” as the team is currently holding the project open for additional testing for the summer and fall release to ensure the change made did not impact other projects’ changes or enhancements. She noted the project is expected to close in July.

Lisa then moved on to the remaining 2019 releases. She began with the 2019 summer release, which is on track to deliver the four areas of functionality in the approved roadmap on June 16, including notices and defects as well as interface work. Lisa noted that the completion of the PRISM interface phase 3 project is foundational work for phase 3 of the reasonable opportunity period (ROP) project. She will provide an update on this item after the walkthrough of 2019 projects.

Greg asked Lisa if this was the final phase of the PRISM project. Lisa noted it was indeed the final deploy for PRISM.

Lisa then presented on the fall release, which includes several projects with a scheduled delivery date of September 15. She advised the GetInsured implementation is aiming for a full integration between GetInsured and METS for the 2020 open enrollment. She also advised the defects scope for fall includes resolving a defect with MinnesotaCare auto-renewals wherein a duplicate calculation is causing incorrect eligibility determinations.

Deborah asked Lisa to explain what full integration of GetInsured implementation is and how the timing of the release compared to MNSure's open enrollment period. Nate Clark advised that MNSure's open enrollment period will begin November 1. Lisa added that the fall deploy was scheduled to occur September 15, before the start of open enrollment. Additionally, Lisa noted that full integration means the shopping and enrollment experience between private programs and METS. Nate added that the implementation is going to replace the legacy plan selection enrollment and all backend electronic data interchange transactions that MNSure conducts with carriers in addition to large portions of notices and tax form 1095-A generation.

Chuck Johnson asked Lisa if the METS improvement project contained in the spring release was the first iteration of a project or a single release project. Lisa noted she would follow-up, but believed that it was a one-and-done item.

Regarding the winter 2019 release, Lisa noted MNIT will deploy both notices and defect work, in addition to the unique person ID project that will focus on developing end-to-end merge capability and improved person matching. She advised this project will help in complying with the requirement in the Health and Human Services budget bill recently passed which requires DHS to design and implement a corrective plan to the problem of duplicate personal identification numbers created for Medical Assistance enrollees. Next, while the fall release for the project is on track, Lisa noted the renewals process improvement project has not been able to identify scope that could fit into the winter release as of the previous Monday's scope freeze deadline. She noted the program management team (PMT) anticipates de-scoping the second deployment of the project from winter 2019.

Lisa then asked for the ESC's approval to add a Federal Tax Law Changes project to the winter release for 2019. She noted Federal Tax Law Changes is a high priority effort aimed at complying with several changes Congress made to the modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) methodology in 2018 that require updates to the METS online application and the way METS calculates MAGI. She advised that without this project, Minnesotans may not receive the correct eligibility determinations for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare.

Jon asked about the date by which functionality to correct duplicate personal identification numbers had to be implemented per the newly passed bill. Marie advised that the legislation required implementation by summer of 2021.

MOTION: Deborah moved to approve adding federal tax law changes to the winter 2019 release. Kari Koob seconded. All voting members present voted in favor and the motion was approved.

Lisa then provided an update on infrastructure improvements, an ongoing METS project. She noted that there are several individual efforts that map back to the infrastructure improvements heading. Lisa advised that a project called Identity Access Management MNSure Multifactor Authentication & Dev Enhancements is currently working to implement multifactor and mobile authentication aimed at improving security. She also noted the METS Disaster Recovery (DR) prepares for and executes METS disaster recovery tests. The most recent test in April demonstrated increased ability to recover METS in a timely manner. Next, Lisa noted

the Compliance and Audits project implements a system of monitoring and reporting on user access and activity within the system, which assists in better monitoring and managing information requests, and supports the MNsure annual report to the Minnesota legislature. Finally, Lisa advised the CMS Hub Cloud Migration effort was driven by an announcement last year by CMS that all services provided by the Data Services Hub would be moving to the Amazon Web Services Cloud by March 2019. She advised that MNIT has migrated both production and test environments to the cloud and is wrapping up the project. As a result, PMT will remove reference to the Cloud Hub Migration from this ongoing item going forward.

Furthermore, Lisa noted Cost Sharing for Medical Assistance has been added to the work in progress section. This effort is driven by legislation that calls for changes to Medical Assistance cost sharing requirements. She advised this complex project spans several systems including METS and is expected to be on the 2020 roadmap for the committee's approval later this summer.

Deborah requested more information on compliance and audits capabilities and whether or not some of the information may be useful to the counties. Lisa said she would follow up offline.

Marie added that the cost-sharing piece was part of a CMS corrective action plan, not purely a legislative decision.

Lisa then provided an update on the METS 2019 release roadmap. She noted the VLP project in the spring release shows as In Progress, as MNIT is holding it open for testing against the projects in the summer and fall since they accommodated the Homeland Security change last week. Lisa then advised that the renewals process improvement project's phase 2 was removed from the winter release, while the federal tax law changes project has been added. She also noted the reference to CMS hub cloud migration has been removed from the ongoing infrastructure improvement project title since that work will not be ongoing and is completed. Finally, Lisa advised the cost sharing project is now showing in the work in progress section.

Lisa noted that reasonable opportunity period phase 3 is not included in a 2019 release. She advised the ESC had asked the PMT to consider whether it could be fit into 2019 at the time the roadmap was approved. She advised that the project's sponsors had considered the risk, likelihood of having to deliver limited scope, and impacts to other projects slated for the 2019 releases and determined that it could not fit. It is being worked for delivery in the first 2020 release and appears on the roadmap as a work in progress.

Lisa noted that the PMT is in the process of planning for 2020 METS work with the preparation of the federal fiscal year 2020 funding request to CMS. The plan is to present plans at the July METS ESC meeting. While ESC will still be asked to approve the priorities to be worked on, the presentation will better align with the release and project processes that are in place for METS. She advised the work will be broken into three categories: ongoing operations work, both new and continuing; development projects already in progress and recommended to continue; and new development projects to start.

Lisa ended with a project status update. Overall, she noted there are 21 projects in green status, four projects in yellow or caution status, and one project in red or critical status. Lisa advised the red project is the GetInsured implementation. It is red due to risk and schedule. The vendor's code delivery timeline has been delayed. She noted they are mitigating the risk of this delay by taking smaller, more frequent deployments from the vendor and adjusting test plans accordingly. Lisa advised that with these changes, some portions of the GetInsured code will not come in until after the conclusion of integration testing for the fall release and the code merge of all the fall projects' code. She noted the risk with this is that the vendor will have less time to resolve any defects that are found once the code is tested by MNSure staff. Lisa advised project managers are executing early steps in the contingency plan for open enrollment as a precaution.

Nate expanded on the GetInsured implementation. He noted that MNSure has come to a common understanding with the vendor on expected timeline and when the remaining functionality will be delivered. He said that they are satisfied with the work that has been done so far. Nate also reiterated that GetInsured has been doing frequent deploys to help identify any issues that arise. Furthermore, the project team on the business side has noticed significant improvements to the way defects have been identified and how they are being worked. Nate advised that from a business point of view, MNSure's confidence is high and they do not have any concerns about delivering successfully as scheduled.

Quarterly Financial Report

Jackie Hippen of MNIT and Marty Cammack of DHS presented the [METS Fiscal Report for FY 2019, quarter 3](#). Jackie noted the fiscal report is for the quarter that ended March 31, 2019. Jackie prefaced that she would highlight the current year quarterly expenditures and annual budget, and when looking at the four-year budget, Marty will review changes to the METS quarterly fiscal report.

Jackie began by noting an addition since last quarter's report, which is a note about future year budget assumptions that has been added to the Table 1 description, located under number 3.

Jackie presented the four-year view, in which the top half of the page shows expenditures, and the bottom half shows financing. She noted the budget is split into a development component and an operational component and that more information on the distinction between the two can be found on the first page. Jackie noted the future year budgets have been added to Page 1 and states the preliminary budget for development reflects the last quarter of the current federal award. She advised that future development budget dollars will be added as they are approved. FY2020 and FY2021 preliminary operations budgets are assumed to continue at the current level.

Marty then explained two changes to the METS fiscal report. He noted that he would focus on the financing section of table 1. He noted there is a federal cost allocation change effective January 1 and a federal accounting change that has been decided at the state level to be implemented in conjunction with the cost allocation change. Marty advised that effective

January 1, the state had some additional guidance on how costs should be allocated for METS. He noted that the state changed from allocating certain costs strictly to the Medicaid program, to instead allocating them across all benefiting programs. He advised this had an adverse effect on the state budget. Marty noted the financing section does reflect that cost allocation change. He advised that the development financing section is now broken up between federal share and non-federal share. The federal share includes a breakdown of both the federal CCIIO share and the federal Medicaid share. The non-federal share is more clearly broken out between the MNsure and DHS shares. He noted that with the cost allocation change, there was an opportunity to shift the basis for charged expenditures to federal fiscal year awards. He reminded the ESC that the report is a state fiscal year view, and thus the federal fiscal year is not clear from the report. In summation, Marty advised that prior to January 1, DHS was charging expenditures to a federal fiscal year award based on the date that the expenditure occurred. However, DHS is also permitted to charge to the federal award based on the date the services were received or the goods were purchased. He noted the primary reason to change methodologies was to shift some expenditures from the federal fiscal year 2019 award, to federal fiscal year 2018 award. This allows DHS to apply former cost allocation principles to larger number of dollars and mitigate the impact of the cost allocation changes.

Marty highlighted two things in the report that were different. First, the format change previously mentioned, and second, the state fiscal year 2020 development budget had been lower and is now higher. This is a result of the cost allocation change mitigation described.

Chuck noted that the development financing for the DHS line under non-federal share went from \$3.9 million in 2018 to \$7 million in 2019, demonstrating the increased state share. Chuck asked Marty if the changes increased the spending capacity in FY2020 or if it is just a technical change. Both Marty and Jackie agreed that it increased spending capacity.

Jackie then moved on to Table 2. She noted the next column “Estimated Encumbrances” shows what the METS ESC Finance Work Group has spent or still expects spend prior to the end of the fiscal year, but is not yet showing in one of the quarterly expenditure categories because this report is on a cash basis.

Jackie noted a few things on development. The overall development budget for FY19 is \$45.4 million, and the estimated balance is \$1M. As mentioned in the description of Table 1, development includes two components - QHP and the E&E APD. The QHP component is expected to be nearly \$1.5 million underspent in FY19, while the E&E APD is projected to be overspent by approximately \$450,000. She advised that if needed, the Finance Work Group will shift a portion of the last quarter’s budget into SFY19 to cover any overspend. Overall, Jackie noted the current federal award is expected to be slightly underspent through September 30, 2019, by up to \$2 million.

Jackie advised that for operations, on a \$30 million budget, the Finance Work Group projects an estimated balance of about \$1.4 million. She noted that while some categories appear overspent, overall, there are no major concerns with the FY19 budget.

Kari thanked Jackie and Marty and their teams for the many hours of work that went into drafting this report. Kari suggested that if the Finance Work Group can simplify this report going forward by eliminating the CCIIO establishment grant funding that are now all zeroes, it would be helpful to have fewer lines to look at.

MOTION: Kari moved to approve to approve the quarterly fiscal report. Deborah seconded. All voting members present voted in favor and the motion was approved.

New Business

Chuck provided a brief update on legislative outcomes. He noted that DHS had requested and received \$20 million from the legislature for system modernization over the next two years, which was key funding for moving forward to improve the METS system and puts them in a better place. Additionally, he noted the legislature adopted reinsurance for two more years, which has a downstream impact on both the basic health plan funding and on MNSure's funding.

Nate emphasized the downstream effect of reinsurance. He noted that along with passage of the reinsurance program, the legislature had appropriated funding to MNSure to cover the loss of premium withhold revenue caused by the reinsurance renewal. Nate advised that without that appropriation, MNSure would have seen a great impact on staffing levels and customer service. Additionally, he noted that the legislature had approved an increase in navigator payments for Medical Assistance enrollments from \$25 to \$70, the same rate as QHP and MinnesotaCare enrollments.

Marie noted the legislature had made changes to the aged, blind, and disabled eligibility category, and introduced a requirement that if a public program enrollee is absent from the state for more than 30 days, they be moved out of managed care. She noted these changes will continue to put pressure on the METS to MAXIS interface.

Jon Eichten reported on legislative updates for MNIT. He noted that for the fourth session in a row, MNIT sought cybersecurity funding across state government. MNIT requested approximately \$20 million in 2021 and \$7.4 million per year in base funding. Jon advised that MNIT received \$10 million per biennium. He noted it is a critical investment that MNIT has sought for a number of years. Jon also noted there were a number of IT policy changes that did not make it into the final state government finance bill.

Greg noted legislative auditors were conducting two audits directly affecting the METS system. The first one started in late March and seeks to determine if METS has appropriate health care program eligibility edits and controls. The scope is the MAGI-based Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare enrollees. Greg advised the legislative auditor hopes to release a report in September. Additionally, in late May, the legislative auditor advised MNSure, DHS and MNIT of a business continuity management IT contingency planning review they are doing statewide. He noted they are looking to see if MNIT and state agencies are prepared to restore the critical systems in the event of a disaster. They are also planning to release a report in September.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjourn

MOTION: Deborah moved to adjourn. Chuck seconded. There were no objections and the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.