

# Minnesota Eligibility Technology System Executive Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

---

## Details

- April 12, 2022
- 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
- Kari Ouimette, Scott County - present
- Chuck Johnson, DHS - present
- Kari Koob, MNSure - present
- Cynthia MacDonald - not present

### Non-Voting Members

- Jon Eichten, MNIT - not present
- Greg Poehling, MNIT - present

### Guests

- Colleen O'Brien, MNIT - present
- Jackie Hippen, MNIT - present

## Agenda Items

### Call to Order & Welcome

*Greg Poehling, MNIT*

Greg Poehling, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Members introduced themselves. Greg reviewed the meeting agenda.

### Administrative Items

*ESC Members*

*Minute approvals*

- The committee needed to approve the February 25, 2022, minutes as that is the last time the METS ESC met.

**MOTION:** Kari Koob moved to accept the draft February 25, 2022, meeting minutes. Chuck Johnson seconded.

- Request to make a change to the paragraph under “Preparing of the End of Public Health Emergency” to add that Tribal Nations will also be responsible, along with DHS and Counties, for ensuring that all public program enrollees have their eligibility redetermined.
- Request to make change to the paragraph under “Preparing of the End of Public Health Emergency” to change the official number of public program enrollees to 1.4 million instead of 1.2 million.

**MOTION:** Chuck Johnson moved to approve the changes to the draft February 25, 2022, meeting minutes. Kari Ouimette seconded. All voting members present voted in favor and the motion was approved.

## **METS IT Program Status Update**

*Colleen O’Brien, METS Program Manager, MNIT Services @ DHS/MNsure*

Colleen O’Brien of MNIT presented the METS ESC Update slide deck. Slides of note are described below:

### **Renewals Self-Service**

The Renewals Self-Service project will be enabling mobile-friendly features in METS. Because the mobile features are a part of the Curam base product, they can be lifted and shifted to the METS system within the rapid timeframe we are working to achieve for the Renewals Self-Service project. The slide 3 shows a mock-up of what the difference is between not mobile friendly and a mobile friendly enrollment site. Note, the images are just an example of the type of change, and not from the Minnesota implementation of Curam.

### **MNbenefits May Offer Future Mobile-Friendly Options**

There is also a different state initiative called MNbenefits that has the potential to offer mobile-friendly options to METS enrollees in the future.

DHS and MNIT partnered with the nonprofit Code for America to launch MNbenefits in 2021. It allows Minnesotans to apply for a variety of DHS programs all at once from their smartphone, and the process takes less than 12 minutes.

While MNbenefits does not currently support applications for healthcare benefits, discussions are underway amongst DHS, MNIT and Code for America about adding healthcare to the list of programs people can apply for through MNbenefits.

### **Key Portfolio Risks the SGG is Watching**

1. The first risk is that continued year after year decreases in METS development funding means that we could see a future disruption to METS IT resourcing, and a halt in major METS improvements.
2. The second risk is that instability in the Curam platform could result from lapsed upgrade status, which could lead to extended disruptions to daily workflow, decreased productivity, and/or an inability to meet regulatory compliance requirements.

3. The third risk is that METS project delivery schedules could be delayed due to staff reassignments resulting from the end of the federal public health emergency.
4. The fourth risk is that IBM's sale of Watson Health assets, including the Curam platform, could negatively impact the vendor relationship as well as the future of METS.

These risks are being monitored closely, and detail on two of the risks are described below.

#### Preparing For End of Public Health Emergency

The public health emergency is officially expected to remain active at least through April 15, 2022, but based on information from the Biden administration we are confident it will be extended for at least 60 more days. Other than that we still don't know when it will end.

#### Pending Sale of Watson Health Assets

As mentioned at the last meeting, the overall impact to METS of IBM's pending sale of Watson Health assets is not clear and could turn out to be positive, negative, neutral or a mix. What we do know is that DHS, MNsure and MNIT leadership are monitoring the situation closely and Colleen will continue to provide updates to the METS ESC as new information comes to light.

#### METS FFY 2022 Roadmap

There were three changes since our last meeting;

1. Curam Upgrade status shifted from "Planned" to "In Progress."
2. METS Eligibility Determination: Pregnant Women and Auto Newborns was officially changed to "On Hold" status, as this group approved at its February 25 meeting.
3. Renewals Self-Service was updated from "proposed" to "In Progress."

#### Rolling Deliverable Schedule - New Development Projects

Highlight of changes to the new development projects slide:

- The 2022 Spring Release Timeframe was updated to show that two projects successfully delivered as planned during the release timeframe.
- The 2022 Fall Release Timeframe is new and shows the new development efforts that are targeting to deploy between mid-August and late October.
- Tribes as Processing Entities row shows that the project will now be active for several additional release timeframes.
- Extending MA (Medical Assistance) Postpartum Period for Pregnant Women row shows this project has extended its timeframe to deliver scope not only in the end of Spring release, but also in the Summer and Fall Release timeframes.
- MinnesotaCare Eliminate the Family Glitch progressed from Initiation to Planning.
- Renewals Self-Service was added to the Deliverable schedule and is in the Initiation Phase.

Highlight of changes to the ongoing/annual work slide:

1. 1095-B Tax Year 2021 is now in the "Closure" phase.
2. Data Access & Management Reports-FFY2022 shifted from "Planning" to "Execution."
3. And Curam Upgrade 2022 is newly in the "Initiation" Phase.

### Spring 2022 Release Timeframe

- The Tribes as Processing Entities project delivered the functionality needed for White Earth Nation and Red Lake Nation to become the first two Tribal Nations to serve as processing entities in the METS environment. The two Tribal Nations will take on this new role in upcoming months, as soon as they have adequate staffing to do so. In the meantime, DHS staff will monitor the tribes' work queues and ensure relevant cases are assigned to an appropriate county instead.
- M&O: Non-Project Work delivered several fixes and small enhancements to notices impacting both public and private programs, including the Auto Renewal, Need to Renew, Modified Need to Renew, Standard Eligibility, and Renewal Eligibility notices.
- The IAM MNsure MFA and Dev Enhancements project, is in the process of implementing multifactor authentication (MFA) for county users. In the spring timeframe, the team completed multifactor authentication for 26 of the 87 counties, which translates into 576 users.
- Also, the 1095-B Tax Year 2021 project completed its annual submission of 1095-B form data to the IRS for individuals receiving minimum essential coverage through MA and MinnesotaCare.

### End of Spring 2022 Release Timeframe

- There have been no changes to this slide since our last meeting.

### Summer 2022 Release Timeframe

- One change has been made to this slide since you saw it last. As mentioned a few slides ago, the Extending MA Postpartum Period for Pregnant Women project will be delivering some MMIS deliverables just a few days into the summer timeframe.

### Fall 2022 Release Timeframe

The scope finalization process for the Fall 2022 METS release has been completed since we last met. This slide shows the efforts that are expecting to deliver scope in the Fall 2022 Release timeframe.

- M&O: Non Project work, is firm to deliver in the METS release on October 16, 2022.
- Note- The newly initiated Renewals Self-Service project is working to meet the requirements to gain entrance to this release.
- Extending MA Postpartum Period for Pregnant Women will complete its scope by delivering a quarterly federal financial report.

### Stoplight Report

- Of the 16 projects: 2 are in red, 2 are yellow, and 12 are green.
  - Red Projects:
    - Data Access & Management Reports - FFY2022 is RED due to risk and schedule issues. In particular, the team is experiencing resource constraints in delivering reports requested by several projects in the METS portfolio. The team is actively working to identify options for meeting the demand for reports but is not expecting to have the matter addressed until sometime in May at the earliest.

- DataMart 1.5 is RED due to risk and schedule issues. A change request to re-baseline the schedule, accounting for a missed requirement for capturing historical data, is under discussion by sponsors. The team is aiming to have this resolved by the end of April.
- Yellow Projects:
  - Tribes as Processing Entities is YELLOW until resources are confirmed for delivering the project's outstanding MAXIS scope according to the extended project schedule that was recently approved. The project team is expecting to have this resolved by mid-May.
  - Infrastructure Improvements - IAM MNsure MFA & Dev Enhancements is Yellow due to delays in finalizing an updated project management plan and scope statement to include Counties in the work effort. The team is targeting June 1st to get back on track.

## Legislative Update

Presenter: Chuck Johnson (DHS)

- He is pleased that many of our priorities are included in the House's Health and Human Services bill. This included full funding for our IT transformation proposal for service delivery. The House bill also included money within their proposal which was similar to our bill for enhancements to the METS consumer portal for enrollees. There is also funding for support to DHS for the unwinding of the public health emergency. This includes additional funding for navigators, additional funding for electronic income verification and policy flexibility as we return from the end of the public health emergency which includes suspending Periodic Data Match (PDM) for 12 months which will simplify the enrollee experience. The House bill also included investments in expansion of coverage to individuals such as continuous 12-month MA eligibility for Children under 21, and expansion of coverage for undocumented children under 19, and automatic MA eligibility for former foster care youth. Some restriction points exist. The Senate generally did not adopt DHS's priorities. We will find out more as session continues.

Presenter: Nate Clark (MNsure)

- The reinsurance program was passed several weeks ago but the program was extended for 3 more years. The provisions in the legislation provide for an upfront fund appropriation to MNsure that is equal to 3 years of lost revenue for plan years 23 to 25. This keeps MNsure whole and supports funding of ongoing operations.
- The omnibus budget bills are moving and they are preliminary, and will likely change as they are heard and amended in committee. In the House Health and Human Services bill, we received full funding for the IT modernization proposal we had put forward. This included the Minnesota Buy-in which includes MNsure's IT funding. This is separate and not dependent on the IT modernization proposal.
- The Health and Human Services omnibus also included the navigator grantee funding which was a navigator coalition request provided through DHS.
- Senate did not adopt anything we proposed, so will see what happens in session.

### **New Business**

No new business.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment.

### **Adjourn**

Greg adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

Next meeting is expected to be held May 24, 2022, at 10 a.m.