# BEHIND THE SCENES OF INTEGRATED DATA SYSTEMS

Thursday Morning: 9:15 – 11:00 (105 minutes)

Integrated data systems (IDS) are those that link records for individuals across data sources and agencies (e.g. linking school achievement records to child welfare records for each child). IDSs are becoming more prevalent and widely discussed in the policy world as well as throughout NNIP. Increasingly, NNIP partners are becoming involved with some aspect of an IDS, whether it is to manage and create one or to participate in discussions about starting one.

With the goal to study how NNIP as a network and how individual partners might add value to the discussion around IDS, we convened a workgroup this past summer. The workgroup gave input to this session, and we will continue to work with members of the group to develop a concept paper for a cross-site project and an additional paper illustrating how NNIP can add value to the IDS world. We hope to continue to move forward with a workgroup agenda on IDS.

During yesterday’s session, several examples were presented describing how The Providence Plan’s IDS has been used to drive decision-making and action. In this session we wanted to give partners the opportunity to hear the process behind and motivation for setting up an integrated data system, in addition to what some of its uses are.

This session will be moderated by Claudia Coulton from Case Western University, who has been working with her own IDS on children in Cuyahoga County for a number of years. We will begin the session with a short introduction by Cindy Guy from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Leah Hendey from UI. Leah will discuss the plans for the workgroup and results from the IDS survey. Following the introduction we will hear from a panel of three speakers (45 minutes). Each speaker on the panel has been asked to discuss the purpose behind the development of their IDS, what their organizational motivation was, how the process of setting up the system unfolded, the length of time, leadership, funding, challenges, and success. Our panelists are:

* Erin Dalton, Deputy Director, Office of Data Analysis, Research and Evaluation; Allegheny County Department of Human Services
* Jim Lucht, Director, Information Group, The Providence Plan
* Peg Votta, Research Specialist, Data Analysis and Research; Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

After the panelists present, Claudia will moderate a short plenary discussion and questions for the panelists. (15 minutes) Possible discussion topics:

* For others with IDS experience, what have been some of the major challenges to establishing an IDS? How have they been overcome? What strategies worked to get agencies on board?
* Do you have any successful examples of creating neighborhood indicators using data from a local or state IDS?
* How would the participation of your city in a cross-site project advance work around IDS in your area?
* What do you see as the added value of having an NNIP partner involved with IDS work in your city/state?

We will use the remaining time to breakout into two groups:

1. Continued nuts & bolts discussion of IDS facilitated by Erin Dalton
2. Using IDS with neighborhood data to explore neighborhood effects facilitated by Claudia Coulton