

State of Connecticut  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



CONNECTICUT DATA ANALYSIS TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY BOARD  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 2200  
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September 25, 2025  
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Meeting Minutes

Legislative Office Building Room 2D, YouTube Live

The following members were present: Bree Berner, Thad Dymkowski, Scott Gaul, Joe Greelish, Alfredo Herrera, Seth Klaskin, David Labbadia, Coleen Murphy (Nick Smarra as proxy), John Neumon, Michelle Parlos, Christopher Regan, Michelle Riordan-Nold, Deborah Schander, Jennifer Barahona. The following guests were also present: Katie Breslin, Adriana Sanchez Dominicci, Manisha Srivastava, Augusta Irechukwu, Vanessa Reineke (OPM); Kate Eikel (proxy for Michelle Riordan-Nold in second half of meeting) Geethika Fernanda (CT Data); Leann Fong-Batkin (WestEd DISC), Nick Smarra (FOIC)

Mr. Gaul called the meeting to order, apologized for the technical delays around the start of the meeting, and introduced the members of the Data Analysis Technology Advisory Board.

Mr. Gaul introduced and explained the six goals of the State Data Plan, with the first being developing an enterprise data sharing approach while ensuring privacy. Ms. Sanchez Dominicci introduced herself as the project manager for development of a secure data enclave for DataLinkCT and further explained the goals of establishing a solid framework for data-sharing across agencies. She updated the board on DataLinkCT's progress working towards important milestones and gave a

more detailed report on the status of the project, focusing on their progress in implementing in Microsoft Azure.

Ms. Breslin explained the DataLinkCT "policy palooza", a summary of policy topics – including data privacy and security, data retention, and data matching – to be achieved and their status. She noted that as they update the system, they are also working on updating the legal agreement to a Data Sharing Agreement to better reflect the needs of the new policies.

Mr. Klaskin asked if the new data sharing initiative is housed at UCONN; Mr. Gaul answered that while it was originally at the state colleges, OPM started administering it in 2020.

Mr. Klaskin asked if DAS had a role in this project, as it has historically been the tech arm of the administration; Mr. Gaul invited Mr. Labbadia to weigh in as the DAS rep to the board and explained that, given the system's history in the CSCU system it was not previously under the administration of DAS. Recently though, OPM has been making an effort to include DAS in the process; Mr. Labbadia agreed and mentioned that the partnership has been working well.

Mr. Gaul introduced another goal of the State Data Plan, increasing the accessibility and visibility of data resources and tools. Ms. Irechukwu introduced herself as the open data analyst in charge of the open data work. She explained that one of the goals of the project was working on open data access plans. She went over the timeline of events for developing and implementing open data plans. She briefly went over the questions provided at the last board meeting to guide brainstorming around the open data plans, and she asked the board what information they would like to see in the plans.

Mr. Dymkowski asked whether or not DOT should submit a plan even though they had been sharing their data for a while; Ms. Irechukwu mentioned that uniform data access procedures can be listed as goals in the plan. Mr. Dymkowski also asked who the information should be sent to; Mr

Gaul said to send it to himself and will go through the administration's data agency officers. He also mentioned that in the slides are examples of data plans from federal agencies.

Mr. Gaul introduced the second goal of the State Data Plan; ensuring metadata documentation, availability, and accessibility. Mr. Smarra mentioned that in a future meeting he would be able to provide the board an explanation of the legal definition of public record.

Mr. Gaul introduced the fourth goal of the State Data Plan, reviewing the classifications of data analytics and GIS roles. He noted that agencies have expressed frustration that current job classifications hamper their ability to recruit and retain skilled employees, and he pointed out the need to work with HR to identify issues with hiring and retention.

Mr. Klaskin mentioned that the board could consider improving the state's capacity to understand and hire data professionals, as HR departments may not be informed on the specifics of data credentials. Mr. Dymkowski also noted that the hiring process is very organization-by-organization, so a good place to start would be by looking at the filtering process for potential hires. Mr. Hererra noted – as someone going through the process currently - that the purpose of this is to create a standardized process for all the agencies to model. Mr. Labbadia expressed concern over the potential to lump IT, business, and data roles together.

Vanessa Reineke shared with the board a few slides from the State of Oregon breaking down their different data-related jobs and how they categorized those jobs. She noted that the purpose of this is to keep Connecticut competitive in the data job market and review Connecticut's current classifications to ensure an informed decision. Mr. Gaul thanked Ms. Reineke and mentioned that she would still be around until next spring.

Mr. Neumon expressed his appreciation of the review of existing jobs and recommended that the board also look into contracts for current data job information. Mr. Klaskin noted that a lot of

agencies also use public-private partnerships to fill employment needs; as an example, CT Data could potentially help agencies that are struggling in hiring data professionals.

Mr. Gaul introduced a report produced earlier in the year on bridging the data gap between non-profits that assist disconnected youth.

Manisha Srivastava introduced herself as a Special Projects Manager and Economist at OPM and explained some of the background behind the report. She introduced Dr. Fong-Batkin from the WestEd Data Integration Support Center (DISC), who had been contracted by OPM to create the report.

Dr. Fong-Batkin explained what DISC does and their work in implementing Public Act 24-45 by studying how the state can serve disconnected youth. She noted that one of the biggest goals of the study was to figure out how to develop a data intermediary to coalesce data from different nonprofits. She explained the statutory definition of disconnected youth and the methodology of the study. She then explained that the surveyed schools identified eighty organizations that they work with, and about half of the schools noted they refer and provide data on students to external organizations for some service. She also explained that nonprofits working with disconnected youth need technical assistance, training, and resources regarding data, ideally from a known entity to ensure confidentiality with students' data. She explained some of the benefits and concerns regarding a data intermediary for disconnected youth. She described some of the common features of data intermediaries, including information collection, report generation, and the ability to scale operations. She then explained a few use cases that the State of Connecticut could implement: developing a new data environment following the report's recommendations, building on the existing DataLinkCT structure, and expanding the capacity for existing data intermediaries in Connecticut. She went through a few different funding options for the use cases and their advantages and disadvantages, noting that any path forwards would require a resource investment from the state.

Ms. Barahona asked how intermediaries were mapped and identified and noted that the list of current intermediaries was not exhaustive enough for an accurate examination of resource needs; Dr. Fong-Batkin noted that the study was constrained on time and resources, and as such was not able to develop an exhaustive list of intermediaries. Ms. Srivastava added that the study was solely looking at entities that operated statewide. Ms. Barahona mentioned that she would be happy to help offline.

Ms. Eikel from CT Data Collaborative thanked Dr. Fong-Batkin for including them in the project and noted that the Hartford Data Collaborative has been doing similar work for the previous six years. She offered assistance in this project going forward, as the collective has been doing this work for a few years already.

Mr. Klaskin mentioned that CAGE and CAPSS may be able to contribute towards organizing a centralized approach to outreach to different LEAs around the state. Mr. Gaul mentioned that the State Department of Education had reached out to all LEAs with a high school attached. He noted that they took the statewide vs local aspect of the planning process very seriously when looking into the existing landscape. Dr. Fong-Batkin noted that the success of local initiatives speaks a lot to the importance of trust in the intermediaries and the strength of local trust.

Ms. Barahona mentioned the importance of getting more focus groups and interviews together before moving forwards; Dr. Fong-Batkin said that she was happy to talk to more non-profits and other stakeholders around Connecticut, but she noted the importance of not lingering for too long after getting information from them.

Ms. Fernando mentioned that CT Data works with a lot of statewide organizations and has an ongoing partnership with many nonprofits and Hartford Public Schools.

Mr. Labbadia reminded that everything posted online must meet a new data accessibility standard to be implemented by 2026. As such, reworking data protocols may open agencies up to additional legal scrutiny.

Mr. Gaul thanked everyone for their time and the board members for their patience through the technical difficulties at the beginning of the meeting, and he thanked the clerk Sam for stepping in and running the Zoom meeting.