

# Data Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Friday 04/17/2026 9:00am – 10:30am

Meeting Location: OPM Offices, Conference Room 2A  
450 Capitol Ave, Hartford CT

## 1. Welcome

The meeting began at 9:00am at OPM Offices, Conference Room 2A.

## 2. Attendance

Present: Bob Barry (BITS), Lauren Jorgensen (UConn), Patrick Flaherty (DOL), Scott Gaul (OPM), Michael Giralmo (DMHAS), Ajit Gopalakrishnan (SDE), Jan Kiehne (CSCU), Mary Lansing (proxy, DOC), Kathleen McKay (proxy DCF), Susan Smith (DSS), Bryan Sperry (JBCSSD), Coral Wonderly (OEC).

Absent: Maura Polci (CCIC) Ram Aberasturia (OHE), Beau Anderson (DOH), Ashley Dhaim (OWS), Nicole Walsh (CTECS),

Staff from OPM: Andre Simons, Rachel Leventhal-Weiner

## 3. HR 1: Medicaid and SNAP Work Requirements – Data Sharing Strategy

Representatives from the Office of the Governor and the Department of Social Services presented the proposed data-sharing strategy to support implementation of the new HR 1 work and education requirements for SNAP and Medicaid while reducing administrative burden on clients and staff.

The Board reviewed the differences between the SNAP and Medicaid exemption categories. Members discussed consent requirements, research framing, and legal use limitations for agency data. OPM will refine the research questions and data elements and circulate a draft data sharing agreement.

## 4. Legislative Updates

Scott Gaul provided a legislative update on bills affecting DataLinkCT. He reported that Senate Bill 6 would make a technical statutory name change and would revise the disconnected youth report from an annual report to a biennial report. Scott also reviewed Senate Bill 311, which included additional disconnected youth provisions and a Hartford youth reporting requirement.

## 5. Secure Data Enclave

Scott Gaul provided an update on the secure data enclave. He reported that the

enclave was close to ready, with one remaining issue tied to the logging and monitoring solution. The target switchover date is May 15, 2026.

Post-launch priorities include improved documentation and onboarding materials, exploration of additional analytic tools, and development of research-ready datasets.

## **6. Data Requests**

Rachel Leventhal-Weiner reviewed the status of the project pipeline and noted that request volume remains substantially higher than in prior years.

The Board members were asked to review and comment on the draft materials for the HR 1 data request.

## **7. Data Dictionary and Research Collaborative Update**

Rachel and Vanessa Reineke updated the Board on research collaborative outreach and the ongoing data dictionary audit. Rachel reported that outreach meetings had been held with nearly every agency to review the learning agenda, identify active work already addressing existing questions, and gather possible additions or revisions.

Vanessa summarized the audit process of the data dictionary and the requested data elements across 19 data requests. Members discussed the value of refining agency data dictionaries, improving element descriptions and coding documentation, and helping requesters align element requests more closely with the actual research question.

## **8. Policy Development**

Policy development was not discussed due to time constraints.

## **9. Other Business**

Members discussed the importance of assigning and using data request numbers consistently and including the request number in the subject line of related emails. Rachel also noted that a Microsoft List has been created to track request status, drafts, and progress notes, and that a demonstration will be provided at a future meeting.

## **10. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.