CalHHS Center for Data insights and Innovation

INSIDER
NEWSLETTER
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A Message From the Director

The past few months have been a whirlwind of progress as we've launched our Data Exchange Framework (DxF) on January 31st, marking a significant milestone in our journey. Alongside this achievement, we've been actively engaged with our DxF participants and department leadership to ensure we are aligning efforts to serve the Whole Person.

Our Insights Lab and Agency Data Hub initiatives continue to thrive, and we we're excited to present at the February Cradle-to-Career Governing Board meeting with our partners from DSS and DDS and continue to advance data sharing within CalHHS and throughout the State.

Furthermore, we're excited to share our recently published CalHHS IT/Data Strategic Plan, which presents an actionable roadmap for how we intend to leverage our technology and data capabilities, recognizing their tight interdependence. Special thanks to Adam Dondro and his OTSI team who have been fantastic partners in this work and for their continued support of CDII.
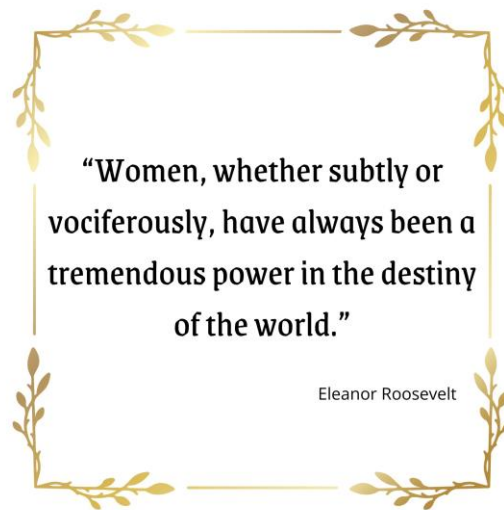

1 - CDII Director, John Ohanian

Lastly, in recognition of Women's History Month, I want to acknowledge all of the women leaders in CDII, CalHHS and all throughout Agency for their contributions to California Health & Human Services Agency's important initiatives. They join a long list of women whose work have made significant

advancements in science, data, and health care. I appreciate the time and expertise that we receive from CalHHS' departments and their data professionals who continue to push boundaries, innovate, and create lasting impacts for the Californians that we serve.

Best,

John

"Women, whether subtly or vociferously, have always been a tremendous power in the destiny of the world."

Eleanor Roosevelt

Insights Lab Updates

Collaboration with Cradle-to-Career Sees Major Milestone

The Data & Engineering and Insights Lab teams are excited to share our involvement with Cradle-to-Career. The effort has been in motion for some time but has come to an exciting milestone with a presentation delivered by CDII, DDS (California Department of Developmental Services), and CDSS (California Department of Social Services) at the Cradle-to-Career governing board on February 28th.

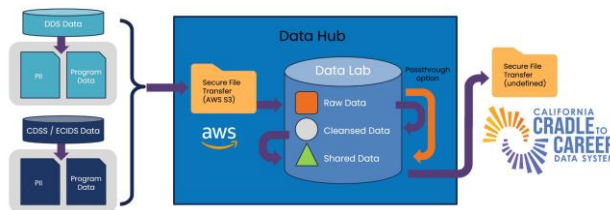*2 - (L to R) Jim Switzgable, John Ohanian, and Ryan Gillette.*

This marks a pivotal moment as the presentation was the first time the Agency Data Hub (Data Hub) has been detailed to the general public. In this context, the Data Hub will serve as the data-sharing ecosystem for CDSS and DDS to share information with the Cradle-to-Career initiative. DDS leaders, Jim Switzgable and Maricris Acon, spoke about the data of their community and early-intervention services while CDSS' Ryan Gillette presented on the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) project. CDII's John Ohanian directed the presentation by announcing this inaugural effort within Data Hub that sets the stage for future collaborations across various agencies. The emphasis for the presentation was that the Data Hub can and will serve as the mechanism for facilitating data sharing—aligning with CalHHS' mission to be person-centered, equity-focused, and data-driven.

The California Cradle-to-Career Data System is a statewide longitudinal information system designed to provide comprehensive insights into education and workforce outcomes. By integrating data from various agencies and organizations, the initiative aims to create a unified platform that supports informed decision-making and drives positive outcomes for individuals across California.

"We are excited to be part of this transformative initiative that has the potential to make a profound impact," said Simi Keechilot who heads up CDII's Data & Engineering team. "Successful collaborations like this between CDII, DDS, and CDSS, are only the start to a bright future of innovations built within the Data Hub and designed to drive meaningful change."
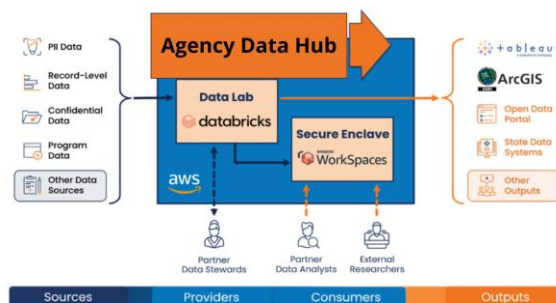
Since 2018, CalHHS has pledged efforts to link, organize, and analyze administrative, client-level records across major CalHHS programs and departments. With this public announcement, CDII has been introduced to a larger community as having a lead role in that ongoing data integration initiative.

[You can watch our presentation during the Board Meeting and learn more about Cradle-to-Career on their website.](#)

CalHHS Departments Adopt the Agency Data Hub Participation Agreement

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After considerable time and effort, CDII Legal, Insights Lab, and Data & Engineering teams are proud to announce the agency-wide adoption of the Agency Data Hub (Data Hub) Participation Agreement (also known as the California Health and Human Services Agency Data Hub Standards Terms and Conditions Agreement). The usage agreement provides a legal framework that enables CalHHS Departments to access data project services directly through the Data Hub.

"We are excited to achieve this milestone which reflects our commitment to fostering collaboration and leveraging data to drive positive outcomes," said David Sanabria, the Data Hub's Product Owner. "This agreement is the result of extensive collaboration and feedback from across the organization, including ISOs, legal counsel, data leaders, and more. We are confident it will enable us to better serve the data needs of CalHHS."
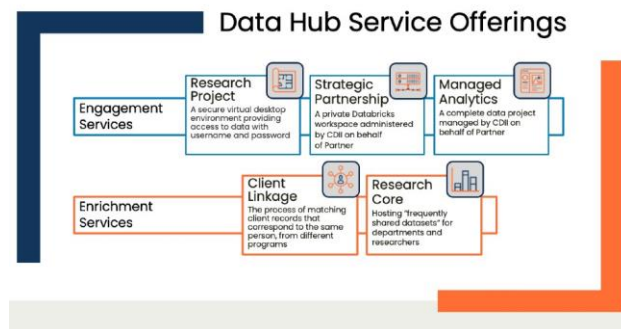
Signature of the Participation Agreement signifies a significant step forward, allowing departments to access Data Hub services as needed and to the extent they wish. These services encompass both data engagement and enrichment within the Data Hub "lockbox" which is a secure environment for handling confidential, record-level, HIPAA-protected data.

The Data Hub serves as a critical platform for facilitating collaboration and innovation, enabling departments to harness the power of data to inform decision-making and drive positive outcomes for Californians. By providing a secure and centralized environment for data sharing and analysis, the Data Hub empowers departments to work together more effectively towards common goals.

For more information on the Agency Data Hub, we've produced this explainer video.

As the agency-wide adoption of the Data Hub Participation Agreement takes effect, this team remains committed to supporting departments in their efforts to leverage data as a strategic asset for improving health and human services delivery. The agreement represents a significant step forward in advancing data-driven initiatives and fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation across CalHHS Departments.

CalHHS Equity Dashboard Addresses CalHHS' IT & Data Strategic Plan Priorities

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In March 2024, the California Health & Human Services Agency released the CalHHS IT & Data Strategic Plan. This strategic plan provides a roadmap to address data capabilities and innovative technology to provide Californians with intuitive high-quality services. The CalHHS IT & Data Strategic Plan consists of five *IT and Data Strategic Objectives* that align with the work CDII is doing to create products to build technology and share data that will inform insights and drive decision-making. The release of the CalHHS IT & Data Strategic Plan marks a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to harness the power of technology and data to improve the lives of Californians.

In addition to work that aligns with the CalHHS IT & Data Strategic Plan, the Equity Dashboard team is collaborating with Agency leadership and CalHHS departments to publicize Agency's use of data to inform strategy. In 2022, Impact Goals and accompanying Equity Metrics were created to measure the progress towards achieving Strategic Priorities rooted in equity. In 2023 the Equity Dashboard (EDB)

team was tasked with visualizing those Impact Goals in a web application. An example of that work will be shared with Californians.

The EDB team will collaborate with CalHHS departments and internal and external stakeholders to show the public how data is being used to provide equity information. By involving stakeholders in developing and implementing equity strategies, CalHHS can ensure that our efforts are aligned with the needs and priorities of the communities that Agency serves. The Equity Dashboard will continue to evolve in response to feedback and emerging trends. By harnessing the power of data and technology, Agency can drive positive change and create a more equitable future for all Californians.

This is an opportunity to share knowledge and showcase CalHHS' utilization of data to guide equity initiatives and ensure accountability and promote an equitable California. Through regular updates and progress reports, the public can monitor the effectiveness of policies and programs aimed at reducing disparities and promoting inclusivity.

CDII in the Community

All-Hazards Dashboard Share Out in The Data Community

3 - Kattya Trinh, All-Hazards Dashboard product owner

On January 16, 2024, All-Hazards Dashboard product owner, Kattya Trinh spoke at the 2024 Bay Area ArcGIS Community GIS Group Meeting held at the University of California Berkeley.

The All-Hazards Dashboard received a State IT Recognition Award from the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) in the category of Data Management, Analytics, and Visualization in October 2023 which prompted interest of this dashboard in the data community. Esri, a provider of mapping software, location intelligence, and spatial analytics solutions, invited Kattya to speak on CalHHS' All-Hazards Dashboard, a situational awareness and decision-making tool that provides a unified approach to emergency response focusing on impacts on CalHHS' licensed facilities and vulnerable populations across California.

Kattya demonstrated the All-Hazards Dashboard's features and explained the intended audience and design purpose of each feature. She highlighted the future benefits of the near-real-time data that the dashboard provides. In a recent interview, Kattya stated, "Our primary objectives were to emphasize the distinctive qualities of the CalHHS All-Hazards Dashboard and communicate our top lessons learned."

Upon her experience at the event, Kattya stated, "Witnessing the genuine interest and enthusiasm expressed by numerous GIS professionals in our journey was not only gratifying but also profoundly humbling. The opportunity to connect with such a diverse and engaged community has further fueled our commitment to collaboration and innovation within the GIS field."
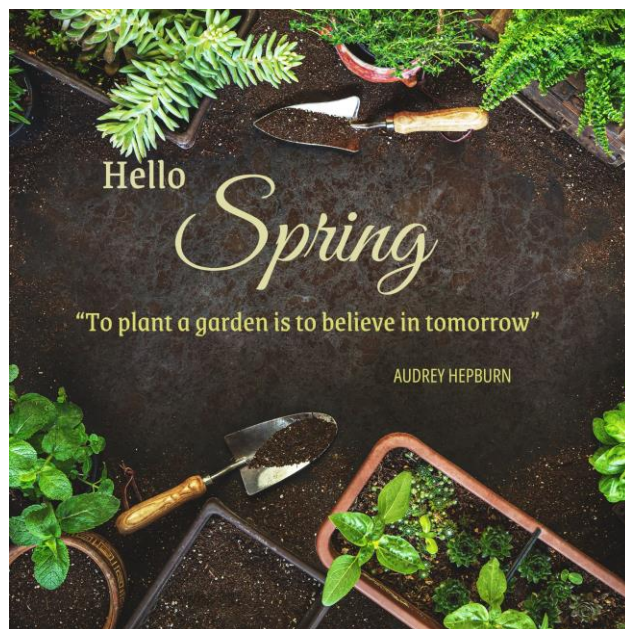
4 - Kattya Trinh presenting at the 2024 Bay Area ArcGIS Community GIS Group Meeting

CDII acknowledges Kattya's contributions to the All-Hazards Dashboard and her dedication to representing CalHHS and CDII in such a positive, impactful light.

Celebrating Earth Day: Community Action for Better Health

April is Earth Month! Earth Month has been celebrated in April and Earth Day has been recognized on April 22nd for 54 years. People all around the world celebrate this month by spending time in nature, participating in environmental causes, donating to environmental organizations, and admiring the incomparable beauty that we enjoy on this planet.

Studies show that people feel happier in nature. Spending just 20 minutes walking in parks or woodlands (as opposed to city areas) has been shown to decrease stress levels. Time in nature can lower your heart rate, heart rate variability, stress, anxiety, and depression.

One way to not only help the environment but also contribute to your health and community, make new friends, and eat great food is to volunteer at a community garden. CDII's communications team member, Jake Zaleski volunteers at *Mirasol Community Garden* in Sacramento. He points out that you can grow food yourself and then eat it, which reduces harmful farming practices like monoculture farming and preventing emissions from transferring food. Also, you'll know exactly what you're putting into your body!

 Alchemist CDC (https://alchemistcdc.org/neighborhood-empowerment/) helps maintain multiple community gardens—check them out if you're interested!

Happy Earth Month! And never forget—we live in the environment, not outside of it.

5 - CDII's Jake Zaleski

Notable Months and Days

April 1, 2024 – Caesar Chavez Day (State Holiday)

April 22, 2024 – Earth Day

May 27, 2024 – Memorial Day (State Holiday)

Contact Us

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