Department of State Health Services Information Technology (IT) Projects and Needs

Presentation to House Appropriations Article II Subcommittee

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Wanda Thompson, PhD, Chief Operating Officer

Donna Sheppard, Chief Financial Officer

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DSHS and HHSC IT Roles

- The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) provides all IT functions and services for DSHS. Examples include:
  - Internet Access and Network Services
  - Telephony Services
  - Help Desk and Desktop Support
  - Application Development and Maintenance via the Public Health Portfolio
  - Liaison with Department of Information Resources (DIR) Data Center Services (DCS).
- Roles and responsibilities for IT functions and services between HHSC and DSHS are outlined through Support Services Agreements (SSAs).
- The designated DSHS Information Resource Manager reports to HHSC and interacts with DSHS on behalf of HHSC IT.

Prioritization of DSHS IT Projects

- IT projects are managed through the HHS IT governance process, which allows strategic decision-making.

- Projects vary based on funding, size, and scope
  - Some projects are short term and are funded with existing resources.
  - Some projects are long-term and based on federal grants or funding.
  - Other projects take multiple years and may need appropriations or capital authority from the Legislature.

- The DSHS role focuses on ensuring the project meets programmatic objectives.

- The HHSC IT role focuses on technological components and project management.

IT Governance and the Public Health Portfolio

- In the HHS IT governance decision framework, DSHS information systems supported by HHSC IT fall within the Public Health Portfolio

- A Public Health Executive Steering Committee composed of DSHS Executive Management, with the support of HHSC IT:
  - Develops three to five-year roadmaps for IT projects, applications, and contracts with technology components
- HHSC IT manages intake for new requests for DSHS-related IT services or acquisitions

  - DSHS management committees review the requests and make recommendations to the steering committee

  - The Public Health Executive Steering Committee approves and prioritizes new IT projects, applications, and contracts
- DSHS frequently reviews the status of IT projects, new initiatives, and contracts to provide HHSC IT direction on resource allocation or needs through the governance process.

Texas Electronic Vital Events Registrar (TxEVER) System

Estimated Project Cost: $21.8 Million

- TxEVER is the new vital events system to replace the decade-old previous system.

- TxEVER, in comparison to the old system, will provide:
  - Enhanced security
  - Greater dependability and disaster recovery
  - Accessibility improvements
  - Enhanced data collection and management

Start Date	Initial Planned Finish	Current Planned Finish	% Complete	Initial Cost Estimate	Current Cost Estimate	Expenditures to Date	Schedule	Cost	Scope	Quality
9/1/2015	7/18/2018	10/31/2019	91%	$16,552,477	$21,823,964	$15,684,009	✓	✓	✓	✓

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TB/HIV/STD Integrated System (THISIS) Implementation and Enhancements

Total Estimated Project Cost: $10.6 Million

- THISIS allows DSHS, local, and regional health jurisdictions to securely track and report disease information; this allows public health to prevent and contain the spread of TB, HIV, and sexually transmitted diseases within the state.

- The THISIS project will occur in two phases, implementation and enhancements, to:
  - Replace obsolete hardware and software
  - Integrate disparate systems
  - Increase access to real-time information

Start Date	Initial Planned Finish	Current Planned Finish	% Complete	Initial Cost Estimate	Current Cost Estimate	Expenditures to Date	Schedule	Cost	Scope	Quality
2/6/2014	6/30/2016	5/31/2019	85%	$5,049,063	$8,779,794	$6,301,746	✓	✓	✓	✓
6/3/2019	9/30/2019	5/31/2021	0%	$3,748,598	$1,836,214	-	✓	n/a	✓	✓

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EMS and Trauma Registries

Estimated Project Cost: $1.8 Million

- The EMS and Trauma Registries collect data on Texas EMS runs, traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, submersions, and other acute traumatic brain injuries.
  - This data allows analysis and monitoring of the EMS/trauma system, so Texas can ultimately improve the efficiency and quality of care patients receive.
- The project builds upon the current system to improve injury prevention interventions.
  - Modifications to ensure that EMS and trauma data is accurate and complete, can be validated, and is consistent.
  - Updates to comply with national data standards and reporting.

Start Date	Initial Planned Finish	Current Planned Finish	% Complete	Initial Cost Estimate	Current Cost Estimate	Expenditures to Date	Schedule	Cost	Scope	Quality
10/1/2017	9/30/2019	9/30/2019	54%	$1,816,647	$1,816,647	$747,111	✓	✓	✓	✓

HIV2000, Real Time Education and Counseling Network, AIDS Regional Information Evaluation System (HRAR)

Estimated Project Cost: $14.7 Million

- DSHS uses three separate systems for DSHS, clients and contractors to administer and apply for HIV prevention, medications, and care services
  - The systems are old, and so subject to frequent outages.
  - The systems also have difficulty supporting periodic changes required for federal grant funding.
- The HRAR project will combine these systems into one and:
  - Provide an interface for clients to access and submit applications for services
  - Increase efficiency and data accuracy by eliminating the need for redundant data entry into multiple legacy systems
  - Increase efficiency by automating eligibility determination for clients

Start Date	Initial Planned Finish	Current Planned Finish	% Complete	Initial Cost Estimate	Current Cost Estimate	Expenditures to Date	Schedule	Cost	Scope	Quality
6/25/2018	2/28/2020	8/30/2021	6%	$10,662,301	$14,617,223	$108,509	✗	✓	✓	✓

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Exceptional Item 1: Safeguard the Future of the State Public Health Laboratory

Overall Item Amount: $54.4 Million for the Biennium

IT Component: $6.9 Million and 9 FTEs (8 in FY 2021)

- Would upgrade the Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) software and infrastructure and provide increased support for maintenance.
  - HHSC IT has identified this system as at high risk for failure.
- LIMS allows DSHS to automate aspects of its workflow, increasing testing reliability.
- LIMS allows the DSHS laboratory to send results securely to submitters.
- LIMS is essential to the DSHS laboratory's operations and is integrated into laboratory equipment functions.
  - Without a functioning LIMS, the laboratory cannot efficiently and accurately provide time sensitive testing results, like for newborn screening.

Exceptional Item 5: Bolster Public Health Capacity to Identify and Respond to Infectious Disease Outbreaks

Overall Item Amount: $5.9 Million for the Biennium

IT Component: $3.5 Million and 8 FTEs (7 in FY 2021)

- NEDSS is an disease surveillance system that processes and categorizes laboratory reports of infectious disease, including mumps and measles.
    - DSHS epidemiologists use this data to discover emerging disease patterns.
    - 60 jurisdictions use NEDSS to complete case investigations.
- HHSC IT has identified NEDSS as at high risk for critical failure.
- The exceptional item requests seeks to stabilize the NEDSS system.
    - Purchase of servers for increased capacity
    - Necessary software upgrades to achieve dependability of NEDSS operations
    - Support for compliance with Data Center Services (DCS) requirements
    - Routine upkeep and technological troubleshooting
    - Assessment and continued maintenance of system security

Exceptional Item 7: Drive Public Health Decision-Making through Useful and Accessible Data

Overall Item Amount: $4.6 Million for the Biennium

IT Component: $4.1 Million and 7 FTEs (one ongoing FTE)

- DSHS has responsibility for management and analysis of approximately 50 public health data sets.
- The Department's ability to provide this data in a meaningful way to policymakers and the public is constrained by technology limitations.
- DSHS is requesting technological tools to allow DSHS to better merge individual data sets into cohesive profiles for emerging and critical public health issues like opioid misuse.
  - Server space
  - Query tools
  - Database

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