

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care

MMIS Replacement Planning Report

January 28, 2019

LB 657 (2015)

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Pete Ricketts, Governor

January 28, 2019

Patrick O'Donnell, Clerk of the Legislature
State Capitol, Room 2018
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

In accordance with LB 657 of 2015, please find the attached quarterly report on Medicaid management information system (MMIS) replacement planning.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Larra Petersen, Deputy Director of Healthcare Informatics and Business Integration, at Larra.Petersen-Lukenda@nebraska.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MVP", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Matthew A. Van Patton, DHA, Director
Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care
Department of Health and Human Services

Attachment

Project Status Summary by Component

Data Management and Analytics (DMA)

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) partnered with Deloitte Consulting LLP to develop and implement a data management and analytics (DMA) platform, known as HealthInteractive. The DMA is a data warehouse that will provide standardized and ad-hoc reporting capabilities for regulatory processing and clinical oversight using dashboard and visualization strategy. State user acceptance test (UAT) preparation is beginning with activities on schedule for a June release to production.

Table 1: DMA Project Milestones

DMA Project Milestones	Target Completion
Requirements Validation	Completed
Design	Completed
Development	March 2019
Training	March 2019
Testing	April 2019
R2 Certification Milestone Review	May 2019
Go-live	June 2019

Project deliverables accepted this quarter include pilot releases 1, disaster recovery, data modeling, and status reports. Deliverables currently revised and under review include quality assurance plan, data transformation and conversion specifications, data conversion mappings, system readiness test plan, system documentation and user documentation, and pilot releases 2-5. The remaining pilot releases are in planning stages. The current contract with Truven Health Analytics was extended through March 31, 2021 enabling continuation of operations while completing data validation.

Eligibility and Enrollment System (EES) Phase 2

DHHS is replacing its eligibility and enrollment system, Nebraska Family On-line Client User System (NFOCUS), with updated technology that meets federal compliance requirements and improves operations. Following a review of the project conducted between October and December 2018, executive leadership agreed to terminate the system integrator (SI) contract and seek a new partner to continue work on the eligibility and enrollment system (EES) project. The EES project was behind schedule and the quality of deliverables became a concern.

Since the release of the EES vendor, the project team has identified needs, scope, and revised requirements for a new SI partner. A planned alternatives analysis will also help review current state and identify best strategies moving forward. A new procurement will be forthcoming based on the alternatives analysis.

Associated Activities

In conjunction with the projects underway as part of the MMIS replacement, the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care (MLTC) is required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to participate in activities demonstrating system functionality. The status for each of these activities is described below.

Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V)

IV&V is a process involving a third party that evaluates the accuracy and quality of a project throughout the project duration. Projects receiving 90 percent enhanced federal match funding are required by CMS to contract with an IV&V vendor to perform these services and report progress to CMS. These services must conform to CMS guidelines and specific federal regulations at 45 CFR 95.626. IV&V vendors also play an integral role in CMS certification activities by acting as an extension of CMS for review of certification requirements and deliverables for projects.

MLTC continues working with First Data Government Solutions LP as the IV&V vendor for all MMIS replacement projects. A single IV&V vendor across all projects ensures consistency and efficiency across the project certifications. First Data submits monthly status reports to CMS and MLTC for all projects, such as the DMA and EES Phase II projects. These reports communicate IV&V activities, observations, identified risks, issues, and critical incidents pertinent to the assessment of project health.

Additional reports are required by the IV&V vendor in compliance with CMS certification and eligibility approval processes. First Data provided a progress report to CMS in conjunction with the DMA project initiation milestone review and is in the process of drafting the first quarterly progress report for the design and development phase of the project. Progress reports are also required in preparation for the CMS operational milestone review as well as the certification final review.

MMIS Certification

The MMIS certification process is defined by the Medicaid enterprise certification lifecycle (MECL). The MECL is a step by step, multi-phased process developed by CMS to facilitate the development of key project artifacts and the review of required system functionality. CMS released the MECL in April 2016, along with a Medicaid enterprise certification toolkit (MECT). An updated version of the MECT was released by CMS in August 2018. MLTC is utilizing the updated MECT (version 2.3) for all MMIS projects requiring certification and has converted all existing projects to the new version of the MECT.

The Nebraska MMIS replacement solution continues to follow MECL guidelines for all MMIS modules. As MLTC initiates the procurement of additional MMIS modules, projects requiring CMS certification will follow the MECL from inception through implementation and CMS certification. This practice ensures that the certification of all projects are managed consistently and promotes the efficient re-use of required artifacts and documentation. Three certification steps exist, R1, R2, and R3. Each step builds on the former and moves from statement of plan to demonstration of successful implementation of the system.

Medicaid Eligibility and Enrollment Lifecycle (MEELC)

In August 2018, CMS released an updated version of the Medicaid eligibility and enrollment lifecycle (MEELC) and the Medicaid eligibility and enrollment toolkit (MEET). MEELC 1.1 contains requirements for state eligibility and enrollment projects. The MEET is a library of artifacts and instructions provided by CMS to help states complete all the requirements for each of the lifecycle phases. CMS introduced the MEELC as a way to provide a consistent, detailed process to review the Medicaid eligibility and enrollment business functions and to help ensure eligibility and enrollment systems meet all federal requirements. The Nebraska EES project will utilize the new MEELC version 1.1.