



Department of Health

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TTY: 711

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Posted: July 11th, 2022

Minutes

Rhode Island All Payer Claims Database Data Release Review Board

Monday, June 20, 2022 8:30 – 10:00am

Location: Rhode Island Department of Health, Room 401

Public Line Call-in: 1 929 436 2866; Meeting ID: 8604957 8057 Password: 453161

Primary Meeting Objective:

- Review and Approve Brown Advance CTR Applications SE#26, SE#27, and SE#25
- Review and Approve Brown Advance CTR Application Amendment for SE #12

Applications are posted for public comment at: <http://www.health.ri.gov/data/healthfactsri/>

Members In Attendance:

Kyle Wohlrab, Co-Chair
Kenny Alston, Co-Chair
Bill McQuade
David Stuebe
Frederick Webster

Staff Present:

Emma Rourke, FHC
Marissa Smith, FHC

Members Not In Attendance:

Ira Wilson
Elizabeth McClaine

Others in Attendance:

Beth McQuaid, PhD, Rhode Island Hospital
Dave Barker, PhD, Rhode Island Hospital
Will Goedel, PhD, Brown University
Liz Chen, PhD, Brown University
Neil Sarkar, PhD, Brown University

1. Welcome and roll call

Emma Rourke began the meeting at 8:30am ET and took roll call. Ms. Rourke then handed the meeting over to Kyle Wohlrab to present the May DRRB Meeting Minutes.

2. Presentation of the May Meeting Minutes

Dr. Wohlrab presented the May Meeting Minutes for review. Frederick Webster noted their name was spelled incorrectly. Ms. Rourke apologized and stated that she would make the change.

Dr. Wohlrab motioned to approve the May meeting minutes, and Mr. McQuade seconded it. The motion to approve the May meeting minutes was approved.

Record of Vote

In Favor:

Kenny Alston, Co-Chair
Kyle Wohlrab, Co-Chair
Bill McQuade
David Stuebe
Frederick Webster

Not In Favor:

None

Absent:

Elizabeth McClaine
Ira Wilson

3. Review Brown Advance CTR Application SE#27: Asthma Healthcare Utilization in Rhode Island During COVID-19

Ms. Rourke introduced Dr. McQuaid and Dr. Barker from the Rhode Island Hospital. Dr. McQuaid began by explaining their research for Rhode Island AIR which is funded by a portion of the National Institute of Health (NIH). The study is to measure the air quality for Asthma in 2018 to February 2022. COVID-19 forced them to transition to remote as noted. The data from the hospital predicted that there was exasperation of low health care usage and low visits to urgent care for Asthma to avoid exposure. They would like to use the APCD data to understand the backdrop situation of understanding the data before and after COVID-19. Geographical variability and differences, and public versus private insurance background. Dr. Barker stated they are interested in the cost estimates for treatment based off more than the hospital records.

Dr. Wohlrab stated this is what the APCD was created for. Mr. McQuade asked how the project staff would handle small ends when using insurance status and payer. Dr. Barker stated that they will make sure that no one is identifiable. Dr. McQuaid stated RI is 9th in the country at 9.5% of the population having Asthma.

Mr. Stuebe asked about adding the study information to the application. Ms. Rourke said she would work with the applicants to add that information in. Mr. Stuebe continued, asking for confirmation that the data would not be linked. The project team confirmed that the data would not be linked at a person level. Mr. Webster continued the discussion by asking if the data is being accessed through the Brown system. Ms. Rourke stated that it is.

Mr. Stuebe motioned to approve application SE#27, on the condition that the revision is made to add historical context, and Mr. Webster seconded. The motion to approve application SE#27 was approved.

Record of Vote:

In Favor:

Kenny Alston, Co-Chair
Kyle Wohlrab, Co-Chair
Bill McQuade
David Stuebe
Frederick Webster

Not In Favor:

None

Absent:

Elizabeth McClaine
Ira Wilson

4. Review Brown Advance CTR Application SE#26: Exploring the Health Impacts of Residential Eviction in Rhode Island

Ms. Rourke introduced William Goedel to the board and asked him to discuss his application SE#26 under Brown University's Advance CTR license for the usage of APCD data in connection with evictions. Dr. Goedel stated that Eviction is a determinant of poor health because it happens rather quickly and has significant effects on health. Public health lacks the information about when eviction is happening for someone with poor health. Dr. Goedel is completing more research before his study begins to understand what types of conditions people who are evicted are most affected by. He is not linking data; it will be used to create a spatial understanding to layer the data with the court data he currently has.

Mr. McQuade asked if the data about evictions will be linked at the person level. Mr. Goedel answered that currently the data would not be at the person level, but at zip code level to see if it temporarily matches with an increase in hospital data.

Mr. Stuebe questioned the purpose of this linkage. Dr. Goedel responded that it is to create an understanding that eviction is a public health issue and that there are things that can be done. He gave the example of ensuring those who have condition with higher rates of people who are evicted have lawyers on their care teams. He continued by explaining in Rhode Island, there is no guaranteed right to counsel in eviction cases. His goal is to work with a member of his team who is an expert in the legal portion of this to set up programs like these.

Mr. McQuade asked if someone on dialysis could be evicted. Dr. Goedel stated that is correct, judges can only require specific things like keeping the electricity on. While the person can be evicted for breaking rent or falling behind on rent, which ranges from 7 to 20 days' notice. He continued that for substance users, if someone has a criminal record, they can be evicted without any notice. Mr. Stuebe

asked about the cost of a two bedroom in the first line of the application. Dr. Goedel stated that it was from the United State Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Mr. Stuebe also mentioned the misspelling in the last sentence of the first paragraph. Dr. Wohlrab asked if the project was just Dr. Goedel, which he responded yes. Dr. Wohlrab continued by stating if anyone needed to be added in the future, it's a quick meeting.

Mr. McQuade motioned to approve application SE#26, and Mr. Webster seconded. The motion to approve application SE#26 was approved.

Record of Vote

In Favor:

Kenny Alston, Co-Chair
Kyle Wohlrab, Co-Chair
Bill McQuade
David Stuebe
Frederick Webster

Not In Favor:

None

Absent:

Elizabeth McClaine
Ira Wilson

5. Review Revisions to Brown Advance CTR Application SE#25: Interdisciplinary Data Solutions to the Opioid Crisis in Rhode Island

Ms. Rourke stated Ms. Buchanan was unable to make the meeting today but that she was able to update the application. Ms. Rourke asked if the board had any questions. Mr. Stuebe stated in the future it would be best if the applicant was required to attend the meeting. Ms. Rourke stated that Dr. Chen was able to join and is representing Dr. Buchanan.

Mr. Stuebe stated the preference to require the respondents to respond to the application section 3.1 because it is difficult to understand. Mr. McQuade added that the Board wants to understand the information and what is being done, and to ensure people are only getting the amount of data they need. The Board stated that the revisions to the scope were sufficient and had no further questions on the application.

Mr. Webster motioned to approve application SE#25, and Mr. McQuade seconded. The motion to approve application SE#25 was approved.

Record of Vote

In Favor:

Kenny Alston, Co-Chair
Kyle Wohlrab, Co-Chair

Bill McQuade
David Stuebe
Frederick Webster

Not in Favor:

None

Absent:

Elizabeth McClaine
Ira Wilson

6. Review Brown Advance CTR Application Amendment SE#12: APCD-driven Predictive Modeling for Clinical Decision Support

Ms. Rourke introduced Dr. Neil Sarkar to the board. Dr. Sarkar explained his original application SE#12 which was focused on using the APCD to understand population level systems learned on the individual level. He received funding from the NIH to understand Latinx communities specifically and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funding to examine long term conditions that affect people in long term care facilities that may be impacted by COVID-19. He is looking for the addition of race/ethnicity and CurrentCare data, as well as zip code level patterns to guide decision, approach, evaluations, and outcomes. He is exploring if the individuals who are enrolled in the exchange have different outcomes and clinical differences that are followed.

Mr. McQuade stated the race and ethnicity data is a challenge to work with and asked how Dr. Sarkar will make more stability out of the race data for the process. Dr. Sarkar explained that the Ecosystem has a good race and ethnicity data table, and that overall Rhode Island is ahead of most states. He stated this is a good place to start and then build up from. He also recognized that the unfortunate reality of Rhode Island is that you can look at zip codes for ethnicity and be able to see racial boundaries.

Mr. Stuebe agreed that this is great work but questioned the use of machine learning. He stated that he is concerned that machine learning using race and ethnicity data would create a racially biased algorithm. Dr. Sarkar explained this is just exploratory work, and that the data is complemented with insurance and ecosystem data. He recognized that this is a challenge to overcome but clinically this is the best way to do it with what is available.

Mr. Webster questioned if there has been any research outcome in the past three years. Dr. Sarkar responded it has been a lot of cleaning of the APCD data and organizing it. He will share the results before they are published. Mr. Stuebe asked if there is any way to revise the scope to acknowledge the possibility of racism in machine learning.

Ms. Rourke interjected to confirm whether the questioning was staying within the scope of the DRRB's charge. Mr. Stuebe stated we can have some lenience with discussing that. Mr. McQuade stated that he was not previously aware of this issue, and noted that he has witnessed desire from the state and the health community to use more race and ethnicity data in studies. Mr. Stuebe stated that the issue of racism in machine learning algorithms is something that can be clarified within the amendment to avoid

any public pushback. Mr. Webster asked if data scrubbing and validating would contribute to the issue. Mr. Stuebe responded that yes it would. Mr. McQuade suggested altering the hypothesis to say the project is doing this to address race disparities and accuracy, but that the study would not include race as an indicator. It would be to identify race and ethnicity to support data. Dr. Wohlrab stated this is already stated in the scope. He mentioned looking back to what Ms. Rourke said about the charge of the Board.

Ms. Rourke asked if Mr. Alston had anything to add as the legal representative or any issues he sees. Mr. Alston stated there are not any issues from the legal perspective, but it is important to consider these factors.

Mr. Webster asked Dr. Sarkar if this overlay of data will garner a big enough cell size. Dr. Sarkar responded that he would not know until he got to work on it. Mr. Stuebe asked Dr. Sarkar if he would be able to add a sentence about race and ethnicity. Dr. Sarkar stated he would include a statement that indicated that there may be biases in Artificial Intelligence and accounting for that or how it will be accounted for as a factor here.

Mr. Webster motioned to approve application amendment SE#12, pending revision to the scope and Mr. Stuebe seconded the motion. The motion to approve application SE#12 was approved, pending revisions to the scope.

Record of Vote

In Favor:

Kenny Alston, Co-Chair
Kyle Wohlrab, Co-Chair
Bill McQuade
David Stuebe
Frederick Webster

Not In Favor:

None

Absent:

Elizabeth McClaine
Ira Wilson

7. Public Comment

Ms. Rourke opened the line for public comment. There was no public comment.

8. Next Steps and Adjourn

Ms. Rourke stated there will be a new member joining the committee next month, Liv King. She also noted that she is still looking for someone who is willing to join the data security subcommittee.

Mr. Stuebe requested that the Data Security Subcommittee should review the Brown master Data Management Plan. Ms. Rourke confirmed that she would add that to the agenda of the next DSSC meeting.

Ms. Rourke stated the next Board meeting would be held Monday July 18th, 2022.

Dr. Wohlrab facilitated a vote to adjourn the meeting. Mr. McQuade motioned to close the meeting, and Mr. Stuebe seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved.

Record of Vote

In Favor:

Kenny Alston, Co-Chair

Kyle Wohlrab, Co-Chair

Bill McQuade

David Stuebe

Frederick Webster

Not in Favor:

None

Absent:

Elizabeth McClaine

Ira Wilson