



MLDS CENTER

Maryland Longitudinal Data System

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Monthly Report for October 2014

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General

Branch Directors

Jon Enriquez and Chandra Haislet have officially stepped down from their positions as directors of the Reporting and Information Services Branch and System Management Branch, respectively. Jon was selected to fill the position of Director of Research and Policy Analysis at MHEC and Chandra was selected to fill the position of Director of the Accountability Branch at MSDE. Both have made a big contribution to the development of the MLDS Center and will be missed. However, their promotions are well deserved and they fortunately will not be too far from the MLDS Center and its work (in fact both will work closely with and be the agency supervisor for their replacements).

Both MHEC and MSDE are actively engaged in filling the vacancies. MSDE has a candidate who will be proposed formally to fill the position and should be actively on board within a few weeks. MHEC does not have an internal candidate, but already has started a search process.

In consultation with MHEC and MSDE, the two positions will be reclassified and some additional reorganization within the Center will also take place. The primary reason for the reclassifications is that the current classification for the branch directors requires them to be in a supervisory role. Neither MHEC nor MSDE plan to have these positions supervise staff at MHEC or MSDE. Within MLDS, these positions do not make ideal supervisors because they are only involved in MLDS work 50% of the time and because the employees are IT staff who are more effectively supervised and managed by other IT staff. A revised organizational chart is attached for your review.

Staffing Update

Below is a chart listing each MLDS Center position and its current status.

Criminal History Background Investigation

Background investigations of the majority of the MLDS Center staff were completed this week. Several prior attempts to get this process completed had been unsuccessful due to confusion at the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services about the status of the MLDS as an independent agency and delay in authorization to include a federal background investigation in addition to the state investigation. Now that these investigations are complete, staff can be granted access to the database.

System Management Branch

Data Center Installation

The MLDS Center is working very closely with MSDE Data Center staff to continue build the MLDS Center servers and environments at the MSDE Data Center. The servers and storage devices have been installed. The Virtual LAN on the servers has been defined and will be configured in the coming days. Various network diagrams have been created and discussed among the teams. Staff plans to implement the virtual machine configuration and setup of servers as the next phase. Staff also completed preparation for VMware installation. Finally, while building the environments, staff is carefully analyzing firewall rules to ensure compliance with data security requirements.

Data Loads

MLDS Center has completed loading additional data received from the agencies into the Operational Data Store (ODS). Data collection schedule has been revised and discussed. We completed modifications to OBIEE cube to create specific dashboards. Data loading is being put on hold until a new ETL developer is brought on board. In the meantime, staff continues to build requirements for dashboards and testing the data. Staff also completed FERPA compliance business rules that need to be applied to the dashboard data. Staff is building updated version of the data inventory document driven from the new data dictionary. Finally staff is continuing to meet and discuss new dashboards based on policy questions.

Policy and Information Services Branch

The Policy and Information Services Branch has finally been able to move ahead with developing and updating the Center's website because of the addition of our new web developer, Mr. Pradeep Reddy. Branch staff, including Mr. Reddy, has transferred the existing website files from their old location on the MSDE servers to the MLDS servers. Staff has also made substantial progress in updating the look and feel of the website, including the adoption of State standards for web design. Staff has prepared a list of dashboards, based on data that have been loaded into the data cube, that will be created in the next several weeks and months (that is, both before and after the public re-launch of the website). Staff is testing dynamic dashboard capabilities through the website, and is designing and building page templates to host these dashboards. Finally, staff is working with DoIT to establish the website on the maryland.gov domain (as opposed to the current .org domain) in preparation for our public re-launch.

Research Services Branch

Initial System Review

With data uploaded into the data system, the research team is starting to work with the data to see what research questions from the Center's research agenda can be used to run analyses.

Research Coordinator

The search for a Research Coordinator that was started this summer has reached a successful conclusion with the hiring of Angela Henneberger, Ph.D. Dr. Henneberger is completing a post doctorate program at Pennsylvania State University where she is studying educational and longitudinal research methods. She will be starting in the beginning of January, after she completes her post doc in December.

Research Series

The November Research Series will be next Friday the 7th and will be on missing data strategies in longitudinal research. That presentation will be made by the College Park Research Team members: Associate Professor Laura Stapleton, doctoral student Allison Preston, with the lead presenter being our advanced doctoral student Dan McNeish. This is a vital issue for the Center going forward as the Center develops strategies for how to handle missing data in terms of the structure of the data system, and as the Research Team develops analytic strategies for handling missing data in analyses and disseminates those techniques. This Research Series will be held in College Park.

For the December Research Series, researchers at the Jacob France Institute were invited to give the presentation, which will be held on the campus of University of Baltimore.

MLDS Staffing Update – 10-31-2014

Position	Status	Notes
1. Database Specialist Supervisor	Vacant. MSDE contractor is available through March of 2015.	Another round of advertising will begin next week.
2. Computer Network Specialist	Filled	
3. ETL Developer	Vacant. Interviews are underway.	Since there is no longer a contractor available at MSDE, this is the highest priority.
4. OBIEE Developer	Filled	
5. Application and Security Manager	Filled	
6. Database Specialist Manager	Filled through a contract.	UMB has a contract with Chuck Shelton that is funded by MLDS. Chuck is the senior system developer and architect of the System.
7. Executive Associate	Filled	
8. Assistant Attorney General	Filled	
9. OBIEE Analyst	Vacant.	Currently not a priority.
10. Web Center Developer	Vacant. MLDS contractor is available for one more month.	Hiring through the H-1B Visa program is being considered.
11. IT Support Specialist	Vacant.	Currently not a priority.
12. Executive Director	Filled	
13. Branch Director – Reporting and Policy	Vacant.	Jon Enriquez will continue to provide support until position is filled.
14. Branch Director – System Management	Vacant.	New employee has been identified.
15. ETL Developer (DLLR)	Vacant.	DLLR is conducting the recruitment for this position, which will begin within the next week or two.