**Department of Early Childhood Quarterly Update**
December 13, 2023

**Universal Preschool Information Technology Systems**

*1. Which elements of the project are currently underway? Which elements have been completed since the department last updated the JTC? Is the project on schedule with initial Plans?*

We are excited to report the completion of enhanced reporting, movement to direct enrollment by providers and LCOs to ensure quick access to programs, as well as data quality assurances. CDEC has also documented user stories, prioritized points, and planned for year two development, including year two enrollment structure and timeline. The Department has reset our work to an Agile process with a commitment to go slow to go fast and ensure risks are addressed prior to release. In that, the Department has re-committed to a stable development/test environment to protect the current live system.

*2. How much money has been obligated and spent at this point? Please break down amounts and spent separately.*

The Department currently has obligated $3,453,646 and, of this amount, has spent $3,215,135 from the Universal Preschool Information Technology Capital budget.

*3. What is anticipated to be completed by the next quarterly update?*

By the next quarterly update, the Department will have launched into year two enrollment with a revised family enrollment process and application, more automated features (such as IEP enrollment), a more efficient process to communicate additional hours eligibility and verification, an aligned, stable phased enrollment approach, and increased data transparency.

*4. When does the department/institution anticipate that the project will be complete?*

The project is in the final phases with the current capital IT funding.

*5. Are there any important concerns or updates you wish to share with the committee?*

The Department has received a positive response to year two planning, which has been grounded in user stories. Both providers and families have shared that they feel heard, and that the CDEC approach is not top down. Timing for the work is still urgent, and clear communications are critical to continue to improve.

*6. For multi-phase projects, has there been any insight gained through this phase of the project that will cause changes in the next requested phase of the project?*

Yes, CDEC has gained insight that will influence the priorities for year two. Based on this insight, the Department has again partnered with Colorado Digital Services (CDS) and has brought on a new vendor for product management and lead IT input. The Department is in the process of hiring a Chief Product Officer with an initial priority focus on universal preschool systems, hiring a Universal Preschool Product Owner, and maintaining close coordination with our OIT partners and aligned technical owner to sustain a consistent, quality effort.

**Early Childhood Information Technology Systems Comprehensive Analysis**

*1. Which elements of the project are currently underway? Which elements have been completed since the department last updated the JTC? Is the project on schedule with initial Plans?*

The Department has brought on a vendor/national consultant to build the ownership body, use cases, and sustainability for the Early Childhood Integrated Data System.  A vendor for program and project management has been solicited and brought on board.  This vendor is also conducting the Human Centered Design sessions with provider stakeholders and will begin with family stakeholders within weeks.  Additionally, the vendor is assisting the Department with the development of SOW's for solicitations for both the infrastructure build of the Early Childhood Integrated Data System and for the evaluation of CDEC websites. The website vendor is planned to yield an architecture and design for the future websites that represent and provide stakeholders with guidance to CDEC services and dashboards, and in many cases, the build of those sites.  With assistance from staff brought on board in conjunction with OIT, the architecture for the Early Childhood Integrated Data System build is underway.

*2. How much money has been obligated and spent at this point? Please break down amounts and spent separately.*

The Department of Early Childhood has fully obligated the $14,650,000 in funds with the Office of Information Technology and of this amount has spent $205,247 for its Comprehensive Analysis Early Childhood Information Technology Systems.

While the Department has fully obligated the funds with the Office of Information Technology (OIT), OIT has spent $280,402 for the components of Comprehensive Analysis Early Childhood Information Technology Systems.

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| Enterprise Architecture | $9,416.62 |
| Enterprise Technical Architecture | $17,955.00 |
| Project Management | $18,666.43 |
| Procurement | $9,364.38 |
| Resultant Consulting | $225,000.00 |

| Total: | $280,402.43 |
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Additionally, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) has brought on a vendor to manage the Program, Project, Human Centered Design and Solicitation efforts at $2,462,000, and are finalizing a contract with a vendor to do the programmatic build of the Early Childhood Integrated Data System at $299,400.

**TOTAL OIT SPEND:  $280,402.43**
**TOTAL OIT OBLIGATED:  $2,761,400**

*3. What is anticipated to be completed by the next quarterly update?*

The Department anticipates that all Human Centered design efforts will have been completed. This should yield journey mapping for both the enhancements to the ProviderHub, which serves as the Provider Unified Application, and requirements for an RFI for the Family Provider Portal. The Department anticipates having a vendor on board and in action to build the infrastructure for the Early Childhood Data System.  The Department will have solicited a vendor to have reviewed all current websites brought over from the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to CDEC and will have created a plan for architecting a consolidated set of websites with design toward ease of use.  It is anticipated that CDEC will be working with partners to determine the first use cases to be run through the Early Childhood Integrated Data System for outcomes based decision making later in the year.

*4. When does the department/institution anticipate that the project will be complete?*

1) Early Childhood Integrated Data System - The Department anticipates that the extensible infrastructure that will allow for all types of data, varying means of managing data and the analytics needed to provide for the future of the ECIDS will be in place by Sept 30, 2024.  The nature and goal of an integrated data system is for use for many years to come with many follow-on small projects to put varying data sets against one another to provide good decision making power in the hands of state leadership.  Sustainability planning is a part of this project.

2) Provider Unified Application - CDEC is seeking a roadmap of enhancements needed to existing systems that serve our statewide early childhood providers with needed access to resources and reporting.  It is yet to be determined how much of the roadmap will be completed with this funding in this timeframe.

3) Family Unified Application - CDEC is seeking the requirements based on human centered design efforts to put a Request for Information out to the vendor community.  The goal is to determine what new and innovative ways a user layer to provide insights into early childhood services that any given family may qualify for, as well as a document management system to manage all uploaded documentation for multi-system use could be built and used in conjunction with the existing Early Childhood Technology systems

*5. Are there any important concerns or updates you wish to share with the committee?*

The Department is seeking to be thoughtful and approach all efforts with security in mind.  The Department is mindful that to combine data sets across functional systems and/or use data to provide insights into eligibility for other potential opportunities for families creates a sharing of data in new ways for Colorado.  Security and governance is at forefront of mind on all efforts.

*6. For multi-phase projects, has there been any insight gained through this phase of the project that will cause changes in the next requested phase of the project?*

Each phase provides new insights into best practices, as well as redirects efforts away from lessons learned from others who have precluded our builds.  CDEC continues to seek inputs from Early Childhood partners and other states, as well as provider and family feedback for insights into how to respond in a new and innovative way to allow for better services.  For example, Generative Artificial Intelligence may be a new user platform that allows for a Family Unified opportunity, taking eligibility requirements across multiple applications into consideration for exposure to a family of other potential services they may qualify for in a way that has never been done before.  While CDEC is seeking a safe and secure way to manage the data and the services, new opportunities that never existed are now something to consider.