

Center For Health and Environmental Data Division

Vital Event System of Colorado (VESCO) Phase I Update

Joint Technology Committee
June 7, 2023

Project Update

Work is ending on the Colorado Electronic Birth System Replacement (VESCO) project. Reasons include:

- The capital appropriation for the project expires on June 30, 2023
- Current birth system (COVIS) may not function though the January 2025 estimated go-live date of VESCO MVP due to signs of fragility
- COVIS servers must be moved by January 2024. Current COVIS version may not be moveable, however VESCO wouldn't be live then
- COVIS vendor can upgrade our system by January 2024, addressing all of these issues immediately

Finance Update

The original capital award was made up of \$745,000 in General Fund dollars and \$1,695,000 in spending authority in the Vital Records cash fund

- All General Fund dollars will be fully spent by fiscal year end
- To date, approximately \$1.025 million has been spent from the cash fund. Current projections show an additional \$110,000 will be expended through the end of FY 2022-23

Challenges to Complete Project

Multiple challenges have contributed to the dissolution of this project. These include:

- COVID-19 service interruption, resulting in:
 - office closures (due to quarantines and Vital Records Office lobby closures)
 - overall reduction of demand for Vital Records products
- Issues experienced by partners that resulted in collection of funds below projections and insufficient to fund the project. Lack of available cash prompted a 6-month pause of all work on the project in the last fiscal year.

Insights Gained For Next Project Phase

The overall project includes an upgrade to the death certificate and other data collection systems as well. The program's ultimate goal is to resolve all technology debt that the program currently has. While an alternative approach is being pursued to seek contractor assistance to solve immediate problems, needs still exist. The next phase will focus on:

- Upgrading various vital event systems currently utilizing Microsoft spreadsheet applications, such as the fetal death and induced terminations of pregnancies (ITOPS) systems, and upgrading the marriage and dissolution system. These improvements can use the VESCO phase 1 portal that was developed by this project to host the upgraded systems.
- Interoperability between vital records and coroner, funeral home and hospital systems via new messaging standards. This will reduce duplicative data entry and improve processing times.

Thank you!

Dr. Chris Wells, Division Director, CDPHE

A. Alex Quintana, State Registrar, CDPHE

Grahame Dryden, Program Support Manager, CDPHE