



Don't Go It Alone: Lessons Learned from a Learning Community for IIS Transitions



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Background

For over 30 years, the Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII), a program of The Task Force for Global Health (TFGH), has supported STLT health agencies in assessing, improving and modernizing immunization programs and immunization information systems (IIS). Recent public health events emphasize the need to enhance data quality and interoperability within these systems.

PHII and IIS

PHII, in collaboration with CDC, proposes several strategies to enhance IIS:

1. Improve workforce capacity to address IIS standards.
2. Increase use of IIS resources and technical assistance (TA) by jurisdictions.
3. Develop staffing resources for all IIS functional roles.
4. Promote toolkit adoption for best practices in IIS workforce development.
5. Encourage IIS staff to utilize educational materials and training offerings.
6. Enhance engagement at CDC meetings to provide guidance on national standards and the Federal Section 317 Immunization Grant.

What is the TLC?

The IIS Transitions Learning Community is a webinar series hosted by PHII in which jurisdictions undergoing transitions in technology obtain resources and information to effectively plan and implement a system transition.

Cadence, structure, format

The IIS Transitions Learning Community is held monthly for invited members. The associated webinars provide insight into how key IIS topics are relevant to IIS transition projects. Each webinar is one hour and consists of content and discussion.

Examples of IIS transition topics covered:

- Project management and governance
- Change management
- Communication planning
- Data quality
- Clear requirements
- Thorough testing
- Data cleansing, validation and migration

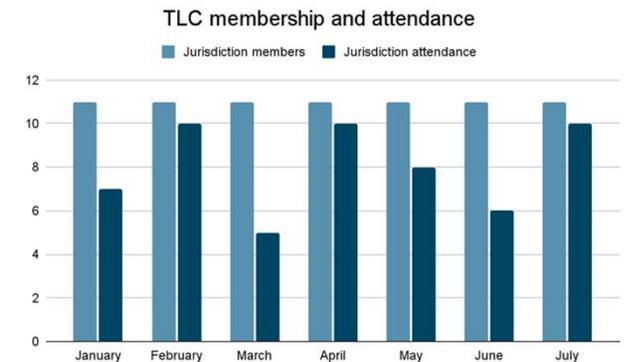


Benefits to the IIS community

The learning community offers participating jurisdictions the opportunity to engage in IIS topics and understand their relevance to the migration process. In coordination with CDC, PHII develops content and provides pertinent resources, such as documents within the IIS Migration Toolkit, to facilitate and support the system transition project. The facilitated discussion encourages dialogue amongst jurisdictions in which participants share valuable knowledge about first-hand experiences during IIS migration. TLC member evaluation responses note: Jurisdictions seem to place high value on interaction with their peers, whether they are using the same target product, are at the same stage of transition, or are just facing some of the same problems.

Membership and attendance

Current TLC membership comprises 11 jurisdictions in some stage of IIS migration. Typical months see more than half of the jurisdictions attend the monthly sessions.



Considerations

Transitioning from one public health information system to another, implementing a new module and/or enhancing an existing application are significant efforts that require robust understanding of information system requirements, project management and change management.

Lessons learned

We recommend partners embarking on a transition project use the **PHII IIS Hub**. This platform offers proven tools, techniques, templates and guidance that have been successfully leveraged by many in the past several years for IIS management and maintenance. Within the IIS Hub, the IIS Migration Toolkit is widely used by jurisdictions going through an IIS transition.

Acknowledgements: Funding for TLC activities is provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under Cooperative Agreement number 6- NU38OT000316.