

Epidemiology and Informatics (EIE) Executive Group Information

Purpose

The Epidemiology and Informatics Executive Group (EIE) helps make faster, clearer decisions about communicable disease epidemiology and informatics **policy, rules, and funding** that impact Utah’s public health system. We bring together local and state public health leaders to align priorities and address shared problems collaboratively.



What do we do?

- Set a shared vision and priorities for communicable disease epidemiology and public health informatics.
- Align communication between related Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) programs, local health departments (LHDs), affiliate groups, and Governance.
- Identify and address related systemic issues impacting Utah’s public health system.
- Review and recommend related funding, rule, and policy decisions to Governance.
- Oversee all core data technology projects related to public health: This includes but is not limited to approving annual system roadmaps, approving project deliverables, strategizing and sustainability options.

Who should use this group?

Bring items if you are:	DHHS program/office leads; epi or informatics leads; project owners for disease surveillance, reporting, data systems, or related rules/funding.
Route through others if you are:	LHD staff coordinate via Local Health Officers; external partners work through their DHHS program contact.
Subject-Matter Experts	May be invited to support decisions or serve on workgroups.

What falls under our scope?



Communicable-disease epi/informatics systems, processes, policies, data governance/collection/IT, and items headed to Governance (funding, rules, policies).



Unit-level issues without statewide impact; non-public-health IT; HR/personnel items.

Executive group roles

- **DHHS and LHO Co-Chairs:** Set agendas, alternate facilitation, ensure minutes are approved, connect with Governance/other exec groups, monitor legislation; DHHS co-chair engages DHHS leadership and staff; Local Health Officer (LHO) co-chair engages all LHOs and staff.
- Contact Information:
 - DHHS Co-chair: Melissa Dimond/Phone: (801) 554-8330/Email: Melissastevens@utah.gov
 - LHO Co-Chair: Brian Hatch/Phone: (801) 525-5161/Email: brianl@daviscountyutah.gov

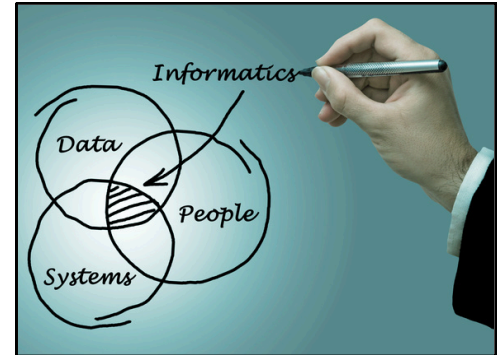
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Meetings

Cadence: Monthly; generally the second Wednesday. Every other month: in-person, half-day aligned to LHO meetings; interim months: virtual (1.5 hour). Meetings are by invitation.

How to submit an item?

Submit via Governance: Epi/Informatics Exec (EIE) will review, advise/decide, or make a recommendation to Governance as needed. Send items to the co-chairs. Contact State and Local Co-Chairs with any questions.



Presenter check list

- 1-3 slides or one-page (plain language) with the ask up front (approve / endorse / refer / feedback)
- Who is impacted (programs, LHDs, Tribes), timeline, risks, systems/data affected
- Data/privacy considerations; draft rule/funding. In accordance with data privacy don't include personal protective information.

What to expect?

Flow: 5-10 min overview → Q&A → discussion → outcome

Review/Discussion: Open time for questions. Discussion about the information presented in the project.

After: A final decision has been made. Document and process through the Co-Chairs.

What kind of materials do you bring to this group?

Utah's public health system relies on coordination between DHHS and local health departments using Governance to make decisions that best support the system. The decisions Governance and its Executive committees (or groups) are responsible for are those related to **funding, policy, and rules**. For the Epi/Informatics Exec committee, this looks like:

- **Funding**, meaning grant applications or any other requests for funding that have an impact on Utah's public health system that are related to communicable disease control and/or public health informatics, should be reviewed by Epi/Informatics Exec. This includes grants that appear to be exempt.
- **Policy** that is related to public health informatics and/or communicable disease control in Utah. For example, this would include things like new policies or proposed changes to disease plans, requests to consider changes in data standards or data collected by local health departments in investigations, and strategic plans for Utah's Data Modernization Initiative should all come to Epi/Informatics Exec for review.
- **Rules** including new rules, or proposed changes in existing rules that are related to public health informatics and/or communicable disease control should come to Epi/Informatics Exec for review and triage to Governance prior to being published for public comment. This would include rules like R386-702 (the Communicable Diseases Rule).

For more information regarding Governance

<https://dhhs.utah.gov/governance/>

