



Community Data Sharing

Overview and Key Concepts

Overview

The main purpose of community data sharing is to create a community-wide information system that support interactions with many service providers to deliver a comprehensive, longitudinal perspective on each child, leveraging data and technology to provide better, faster and continuously improved services. In Community Data Sharing Initiatives - *Community Collaboratives* - participants share information regarding children they serve. It is essential to have a clear definition of how the sharing is managed and authorized and which information is shared.

Key Concepts

Parents / Guardians

Parent / Guardian involvement is key to a data sharing initiative. COMET's community data sharing solution supports parent approval of the sharing of their child's data. Recording and leveraging parent consent is fundamental to a data sharing initiative.

Backbone Organization

The *Backbone Organization* of the collaborative is the lead partner organization that is responsible for community agreements on data governance and data sharing, an agreed-upon approach to parent consent, collaborative goals and the associated data set to be shared. This organization is responsible for *Data Management Services*: the "scoping" of data access for data sharing partners and users, defining the approach to mapping children between organizations, consent administration and an approach to managing data quality. [e.g. *duplicates*]

Data Contributors

Data Contributors are partner organizations that directly interact with children and record child-driven information in COMET, or in their own operational database - *Pass-thru Data Contributor* -- that will be integrated in the data sharing initiative. Another approach to contributing data is to provide program participation as a *Roster Data Contributor* through a list of your children (ID, last, first, DOB, gender). Note that contributors "own" the data they contribute in an explicit or implicit agreement of confidentiality [e.g.: *Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)*] with each child's parent.

Data Users

Data Users are partner organizations that are interested in accessing the Data Contributors' child-related information either in aggregated, de-identified or identifiable format. They leverage the COMET Community Reporter. Commonly, Data Users are also Data Contributors, but not necessarily (e.g.: *funding organizations like United Way, County or City services*).

Community Reporting

COMET's community data sharing solution is powered by our sophisticated reporting application - COMET Community Reporter, supporting aggregated and de-identified community reports and exports, geo-coded map demographic visualization, data for program evaluators, community comparison reports and identifiable data reports and exports.

Aggregated reports: Typically, such reports may pull data from multiple Data Contributors and consolidate / aggregate accordingly. These reports are authorized through the data sharing agreement between the service provider partners.

De-identified child-level reports or data extraction: Typically, these reports are used for research purposes. Records are de-identified meaning that they do not contain any data element that could identify a child (e.g.: *name, ID, etc*). These reports are authorized through data sharing agreements between the service providers.

Identifiable child level records: It is possible to report on identifiable child data, but this data sharing requires valid parent consent and a clear authorization from the Data Contributor.

Services

COMET can optionally provide the following services in support of a data sharing initiative:

Data Management Services: services to support the "scoping" of data access for data sharing partners and users, defining the approach to mapping children between organizations, consent administration and an approach to managing data quality. A COMET Account Manager would be assigned to provide these services, acting as an extension of the Backbone Organization.



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Integration Services: design and develop an integration approach for Data Contributors to efficiently provide their data. The integration will be dependent on the data source and the frequency with which the data is to be provided. This may be an export / import process or an automated interface leveraging APIs - Application Protocol Interfaces. A COMET Account Manager, working with an Engineer would provide these services.

Custom Services: design and develop custom reports, assessments or other features for the community collaborative. A COMET Account Manager, working with an Engineer would provide these services.

Questions? Call 585-673-3200

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