

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

**Utah Data Research Center
Advisory Board**

Monday June 29th, 2026

Virtual Meeting

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM



Agenda

Attendees:

Board

Sam Lee (Tracy Gruber)

Chris Williams (Casey Cameron)

Mark Steinagal (Margaret Busse)

Aaron Brough (Molly Hart)

Support Staff

Natalie Reidhead

UDRC Attendees

Jeremias Solari

Britnee Nguyen

Ari Fenn

Jay Chandra

Wei Li

Alicia McIntire

Connor Hill

Karen Tao

Sarina Ma

Swathi Kukunarapu

I. Welcome

Jeremias Solari

Meeting Convened at 10:30 AM

Previous meeting was December 19th, 2025

Next meeting will be at the end of Q4 2026

II. Review Minutes from Last Meeting

Jeremias Solari

Meeting Minutes were sent to Board members and meeting attendees.

Recommendations:

No questions or comments; minutes are considered approved.

*Note: Reasonable arrangements for persons with disabilities will be made if requested. Please contact
Natalie Reidhead (Natalie.Reidhead@ushe.edu)*

Update on the SLDS Grant. A reminder that the grant period of performance runs from October 2023 to September 2027. Progress on the grant has been affected by federal budget impacts at the US Department of Education and, ultimately, by staffing for the project. One of the Burwood team members on the project left. A replacement was obtained through Burwood; however, training and onboarding were required due to the project's specialized nature and the MPI component, which caused a delay. It is not considered an emergency, but the team will need to accelerate their work over the coming months to make up for lost time.

Legal framework being developed under SB-195 is essential because it will provide the authority necessary to execute the operational goals of the BRIDGE project in a legally compliant manner. Once implemented, the framework will allow BRIDGE to begin onboarding participating state agencies. BRIDGE will be a voluntary data system; data partners are not defined by code. The draft administrative rules have been completed and distributed to data partners (including those in this meeting) for review and feedback with a deadline of July 15th, 2026. Following the review period, the rule language will be finalized by August 1st, 2026. The finalized rules will be presented to the Utah Board of Higher Education for approval at the September 2026 Board meeting. If approved, the rules will be formally published and become effective.

There is new forthcoming data for UDRC Legacy. The data sharing agreement for the Home Visiting Program has been signed and approved, allowing the project to move forward. The addition of Home Visiting Program data is part of an ongoing collaboration between UDRC and the Early Childhood Integrated Data System, which is managed by DHHS.

Jeremias asked Dakota to explain the Home Visiting Program: it is administered by the Office of Early Childhood, specifically the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. Home visiting services are available in nearly every county in Utah. The program currently includes:

- Parents as Teachers
- Family Spirit
- Nurse-Family Partnership
- MESH (Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home Visiting)

The program serves families with children from the prenatal stage through age five. Its primary goal is to support parents and caregivers in fostering healthy child development and school readiness.

This effort is to align and expand access to early childhood data across systems. This data is expected to be received and integrated into UDRC systems in the coming weeks. Once integrated, the data will be available for internal UDRC researchers and external researchers approved to conduct studies using UDRC data. The addition of

Home Visiting data will provide valuable early childhood and family support information, expanding the UDRC's ability to analyze outcomes related to childhood development, family services and educational readiness.

UDRC is beginning discussions to potentially acquire Head Start data as part of its ongoing effort to expand early childhood research resources. While this is still in its infancy and no agreements are in place, UDRC wanted stakeholders to be aware that exploratory conversations are underway and could eventually enhance both ECIDS and UDRC research capabilities. Jeremias acknowledged Dakota's help in this endeavor.

IV. Technology Update

Jay Chandra

UDRC Legacy system is being maintained and supported with the existing operational and research needs. The MPI was created to support matching processes and remains important to current research pathways. The MPI process for BRIDGE has had to be reengineered to support faster matching, validation, and quicker movement of data through the Google cloud platform.

UDRC Bridge has several ongoing layers of development. The GCP environment deployments are mostly complete. The core architecture, including application, services, networking, IAM, and integration of security layers, has progressed. The Data Services portion of Bridge is 85% complete. It is the backbone of all data ingestion, storage and partner data flows. Design and development work is complete. Integration for the Legacy-to-BRIDGE data movement is currently ongoing, while security, documentation, testing, and UAT remain open.

MPI Services has been a major ongoing development for UDRC. When data is collected, it will be determined if there is a Golden Record available for this person, then validation of the source dataset, data partner, and partner participation in BRIDGE. Golden Record will be the spine across Legacy and BRIDGE. Legacy will support de-identified research datasets, while BRIDGE will maintain PII-bearing data for person identification and request servicing.

Development of API Services and AMS (Authority Management System) are closely integrated within the BRIDGE architecture. API platform design and configuration are underway. Support for API key issuance and automated access revocation is being developed. AMS role-based access controls are largely complete. Core AMS services have completed design, development and testing. AMS implementation into the BRIDGE system has reached UAT, and backend functionality is already running in UAT and is under follow-up review.

UI/UX is the front end of the data user experience. The design and development are largely complete across the Admin, Data Partner, and End User experiences. Overall, 78% of BRIDGE's technical infrastructure is now in place. Current work is focused on minor feedback changes, UI refinements, and selected testing/UAT

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closeout items. Jay demonstrated sample data sets on the administrative dashboard of the BRIDGE application online.

V. Research Update

V.1 – Review of STEM Students- RA24

Karen Tao

Summary: Explore, define, and disaggregate the education and workforce pipeline leakage for initial STEM-declaring students

Current Status: Internal and external peer reviews completed. Pending data narrative review.

Next steps: Publish.

Licensed Employment – RA26

Summary: Higher education to licensure and ultimately workforce outcomes for occupations requiring state licensure.

Current Status: Initial descriptive statistics and modeling completed.

Next steps: Preliminary data partner meetings. First draft.

Adult Learners – A3

Summary: Examine the outcomes of returning adult learners who left their postsecondary education for a period of time and later returned.

Current Status: Pending internal review.

Next steps: Other reviews as needed.

V.2 – Changing Employers – RA23

Connor Hill

Summary: Changing employers has been found to increase wages more quickly than staying with the same employer. This research compares wages among USHE graduates when changing employers. Furthermore, the relationship considers the wage differences for employees entering and exiting the workforce.

Current Status: Internal review

Next steps: Continue internal review. External review. Data narrative.

Ages and Stages - RA25

Summary: Developmental screening questionnaires have been shown to have an “adequate predictive value” in identifying later educational difficulties. This research will analyze ASQ’s predictive value for education and educational interventions.

Current Status: Internal reviews

Next steps: Continue internal review. External review. Data narrative.

Out-of-State Labor Att. – A4

Summary: This analysis investigates state aid's impact on retaining out-of-state (OOS) USHE graduates in Utah's workforce after graduating.

Current Status: Undergoing internal review

Next steps: External review.

V.3 – Engineering Pathways – RA22

Alicia McIntire

Summary: This study seeks to understand the college readiness and educational workforce outcomes of students who receive an engineering-related credential.

Current Status: Peer review complete.

Next steps: Manager review.

High School Math Course Taking Patterns – RA27

Summary: This study examines the educational and workforce outcomes of students who take different math course pathways in secondary school.

Current Status: Data Collection.

Next steps: Initial partner meetings.

Program Outcomes – A2

Summary: This analysis examines enrollments, completions, reenrollments, workforce placements, and median wages by program by institution. This project has been split into two projects: one about educational outcomes and one covering workforce outcomes.

Current Status: Peer Review complete (both projects)

Next steps: Manager Review

VI. User Experience Update

Britnee Nguyen

The UX team launched a redesigned UDRC website early last month. The new website includes updated features and improvements intended to enhance the user experience and make UDRC resources more accessible to stakeholders. Britnee shared the website link in the chat: <https://udrc.ushe.edu>

Britnee reviewed the new UDRC website with new logos and updates. Several new features to each tab were highlighted during her demonstration, including the following:

- Publications – now allows users to browse research by topic
- Research Agenda – includes both current and archived agendas
- Data Requests – improved by separating dataset requests from analysis requests

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- Events - previous recordings, webinars, and future event registrations
- Resources – access to important documents such as governance materials and the data dictionary
- About Us - broken down into a few subpages about UDRC and its history, team, and mission. It also includes the UDRC data partner page, including what data we receive from them.

Britnee also shared a preview of the upcoming P20 First Credential dashboard. This is a statewide initiative designed to ensure that every high school student graduates with both a diploma and an industry-recognized credential. This dashboard brings together K-12, postsecondary, and workforce data to illustrate how students' progress toward earning a first credential and how that achievement relates to future educational attainment and workforce outcomes. Britnee acknowledged that Wei Li has been leading much of the dashboard development work. The project is currently in preview and will soon be shared with data partners for review and feedback before the final release.

VII. Data Request Update

Ari Fenn

Complete Requests:

300056: Education disparities – data has been transmitted, and the final report has been received.

300057: Economic impacts of the UU and UT – The data has been transmitted, and we are awaiting the final report.

Ongoing Requests:

300061: ASQ and early education outcomes – Data is being quality checked.

300066: Economic impacts of the USHE system – The initial data query is being written.

Bagels and Research was well attended this year. The goal is to continue holding this event annually. Many representatives from organizations attended, and their participation was appreciated. This is a great opportunity to keep UDRC data and research, along with partnerships, available to the public.

VIII. Public Comment

No public comment or questions

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM