



# Project Newsletter

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## *Project Update and Planning*

- November 26th marked the kick-off of the Data Warehouse system replacement project! The meeting was attended by more than 15 IDPH staff people, several representatives from Microsoft, and two team members for the subcontractor, Infusion. The kick-off that Monday was followed by a full day of discussions on business requirements and project timeline.
- Later this month a business intelligence consultant from Infusion will be onsite to conduct a thorough review of all project requirements.
- Don't forget to check out the new Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) program website! There are a myriad of static reports available on this site that contain health indicators created from newly acquired datasets.
- To learn more about the Data Warehouse System Replacement Project and view project updates visit our website at:  
<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/dwh/Updates.aspx>

## Project milestones:

- Data Warehouse System Replacement Project contract signed with Microsoft and Infusion
- Project kick-off at IDPH

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## ***Data Warehouse System Replacement Project Kick-off***

On November 26, the Iowa Department of Public Health welcomed six staff from Microsoft Consulting Services and Infusion to kick-off the beginning of the Data Warehouse System Replacement Project. Over thirty people gathered to celebrate the start of this exciting project. This site visit lasted for two days. The focus of the second day was on project planning and finalizing all business requirements. Staff from participating programs held meetings with the vendor consultants as well as other specialists through conference calls. The staff from EPHT, e-Health, and IM had the opportunity to discuss project strategies, challenges and expectations. The team has established 13 work packages to be delivered over the next five months. Some of the other outcomes for the visit include:

- Finalized project timeline and deliverables with anticipated date of completion in early May
- Established communication mechanisms, including a secure SharePoint site dedicated to the project
- Determined infrastructure requirements and project sequencing
- Settled the use of SharePoint 2013
- Solidified business requirements for e-Health contract management solution

Next steps for the project involve data preparation for the next site visit and to begin configuring infrastructure. EPHT staff are creating a test plan for the next few months. The plan identifies internal resources needed for acceptance testing and additional people needed to test the final application.

## ***Why SharePoint 2013?***

One of the first major decisions of this system replacement project was to determine which version of SharePoint to use as the interface between data and the user. Much discussion went into the decision, which was ultimately made by the Data Warehouse Administrative Team. SharePoint is a platform with numerous applications, including the provision of secure and public interactions with data. It is anticipated that the use of SharePoint will greatly benefit the department, and beyond data sharing. One of the most common uses of SharePoint is document management. Sites may be created in SharePoint to allow secure file sharing, similar to how the Iowa Health Alert Network (HAN) previously functioned. The expansion of SharePoint use will be gradual and will not occur until after the EPHT and e-Health projects are complete.

SharePoint 2013 is the most recent product version developed from Microsoft, and is not yet publicly available. IDPH is working with Microsoft consultants to ensure the hardware and tools necessary to run this most recent version of the product are in place. By choosing to install and use this product, IDPH will be on the cutting edge of the technology, which will hopefully extend the use of the new data warehouse application.

For more information on SharePoint 2013, visit <http://sharepoint.microsoft.com/en-us/preview/default.aspx>.