

DxF Sandbox Project Charter

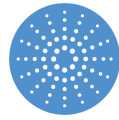
Nov 27, 2023

Background

California is at the forefront of breaking down healthcare and social services delivery barriers by promoting collaboration across sectors for better overall health. California Assembly Bill 133 (2021) called on the Center for Data Insights and Innovation (CDII) to create the Data Exchange Framework (DxF). The DxF requires the **sharing of health and social services information among certain health and social services organizations throughout the state**. The DxF includes a Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) and accompanying Policies and Procedures that establish the terms and conditions for signatories to the DSA to adhere to the “rules of the road” that the DxF has established. Specified entities, listed HSC 130290(f) were required to sign the DSA by January 31, 2023. Certain of those entities are required to begin sharing data by January 31, 2024. Under the DxF, there are [Qualified Health Information Organizations](#) (Qualified HIOs or QHIOs) in which entities are qualified and designated to serve as data-sharing intermediaries based upon an application process.

[Connecting for Better Health](#) (C4BH) is a statewide coalition of providers, caregivers, health plans, patient advocates, innovators, policy advisors, and community-based organizations, all focused on accelerating the state’s data-sharing infrastructure to improve health and social outcomes. C4BH provides a valuable forum for organizations to discuss policy developments and share the latest evidence associated with data sharing. Grounded by shared principles including equity, linkages to public health, privacy and security, and putting both the person and the provider in center-focus, C4BH actively tracks legislation, shares best practices, and develops workable solutions to health and social data standards, measurement, and implementation.

C4BH and its partners recognize the need for stakeholders to have a ***virtual test environment (DxF Sandbox) to help identify and address critical operational, technical, and interoperability implementation challenges as organizations begin to comply with DxF requirements***. The DxF Sandbox offers broad utility that includes the ability for DSA signatories to pursue cutting-edge data-sharing approaches with meaningful cross-sector collaboration, in a dynamic learning environment.



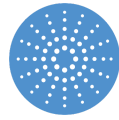
The DxF Sandbox objectives include: :

- **Accelerate DxF Adoption:** The DxF Sandbox provides a virtual onramp to the DxF. Organizations with differing data platforms can readily participate in a test environment that mirrors a production-level system.
- **Identify gaps in technology and policy:** The DxF Sandbox develops a shared understanding and agenda among policy makers, regulators, and those implementing the DxF of major obstacles that require technology or policy intervention to streamline and improve statewide data sharing.
- **Create a neutral playing field:** The DxF Sandbox allows for a neutral, transparent, and objective environment that simulates real-world data sharing scenarios.
- **Produce shared public data sharing assets:** The DxF Sandbox allows for the capturing of detailed implementation guidelines, legal and regulatory guidance, and shared patient facing documents such as a shared consent form and other education materials. Moreover, the resulting test data and DxF Sandbox Personas (Fictitious stories that include detailed person attributes) can be used and re-used by all participants.
- **Allow for expansion of DxF services:** The DxF Sandbox provides a statewide asset that allows the extension of its services to test additional statewide efforts and provides the building blocks for future public-private innovation.

Scope

The DxF Sandbox aims to allow DSA signatories to **identify how to best implement strategies to participate in data exchange as they plan, design, and adjust their current workflows to meet state data exchange requirements**. The DxF Sandbox scope includes:

- *Prove out high-priority use cases across acute, ambulatory, social care, and public health..*
- *Demonstrate how partners are able to collaborate to keep the person at the center and share only the data needed and authorized.*
- *Create shared resources, including test data, use cases, and implementation guidance.*
- *Satisfy near-real-time data exchange.*
- *Provide person/ patient, caregiver, provider, and payer access to the longitudinal health data record.*
- *Incorporate preventative and care transition alert management.*



Approach

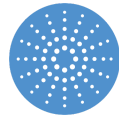
The approach to preparing and implementing the DxF Sandbox focuses on **rapid cycle implementation of priority use cases associated with health data exchange**, including the following scenarios:

- **Acute or Chronic Health Needs:** Addressing the health and social needs of individuals with acute or chronic health conditions.
- **Complex Health and Social Needs:** Addressing the health and social needs of individuals with complex medical and behavioral health conditions and social needs.
- **Population Health and Value-Based Care:** Addressing the health and social needs of individuals and populations across the continuum of care using data-driven risk stratification, predictive analytics, and standardized assessments.
- **Emergency Responses:** Addressing the health and social needs of individuals and populations by ensuring that emergency response providers and disaster healthcare volunteers have access to individuals' clinical records and other relevant information during emergencies.
- **Public Health Responses:** Addressing the health and social needs of Californians by strengthening public health surveillance, research, preparedness, and response to emergencies.
- **Coordinating Reentry Health Services:** Addressing the health and social needs of individuals as they transition from incarceration back into the community.¹

Timeline and Milestones

Milestone 1 (March 2024): A DxF Sandbox MVP available for early adopters and will showcase two priority use cases that include social determinants of health data.

¹ These priority use cases align with CDII scenarios outlined in 2022:
https://www.cdii.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/4_CalHHS_DxF_Data-Exch-Scenarios_Final_v1_07-01-2022.pdf



Milestone 2 (December 2024): Improved iterations of the sandbox will be developed that include multiple organizations representative of CBOs, FQHCs, health plans and providers that have access to at least 24 priority use cases that include social determinants of health data.

Milestone 3 (December 2025): A sustainability plan will be developed that recognizes how best to maintain organizations engaged in data sharing as an active partner in their communities.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Project Management and Facilitation:

The Sandbox Project is managed by C4BH and EMI Advisors who provide overall expertise and support in guiding the progress of the project. The C4BH / EMI Advisors team interacts daily and holds weekly virtual meetings facilitated through Zoom.

C4BH and EMI Advisors manage the following:

- *Identifying other related projects that can help inform or guide the project*
- *Identifying stakeholder groups to engage*
- *Identifying and mitigating project risk*
- *Managing meetings and outputs*
- *Identifying opportunities to advance outputs of the project through other initiatives*
- *Managing stakeholder engagement / participation / workgroups*
- *Managing all technical / engineering efforts*

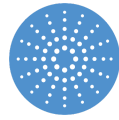
The **Sandbox Co-Design Team** is a stakeholder group made up of a diverse set of California providers, CBOs, health plans, public health and social service organizations. The Co-Design team members participate in weekly virtual meetings facilitated through Zoom. This team works together to identify and align on business, functional, and technical requirements for the sandbox environment.

Phase 1: (Through Feb 1 launch of first two priority use cases)

The **Co-Design team** is responsible for reviewing and providing input on :

- *Personas, person story, use cases*
- *Assumptions, pre/post conditions, actors and roles*
- *Base flow, functional requirements and activity diagrams*
- *Dataset considerations, Risks, Issues & Obstacles*

Phase 2 (February 2024 onward) :



The **CoDesign team** is responsible for reviewing and providing input on:

- *Base flow, functional requirements and activity diagrams*
- *Dataset considerations, Risks, Issues & Obstacles*

In Phase 2, the **DxF Sandbox Community Design Studio** will take over the role of use case identification and development. The Sandbox Community Design Studio is an ongoing human-centered design-thinking initiative to bring in CBOs and other providers to develop shared use cases. Priority use cases will be determined through a proven collaborative approach – Community Engagement Studio – where organizations providing community support and enhanced care management share input and determine work cycles that will be implemented on a rolling basis. The Community Engagement Studio governance model also includes individuals with lived experiences and those who rely on the public health and safety net clinic network in its design sessions.

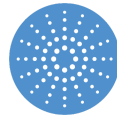
The **Sandbox Community Design Studio** is responsible for reviewing and providing input on:

- *Personas, person story, use cases*
- *Assumptions, pre/post conditions, actors and roles*

Design Studio recommendations are fed to the Co-Design team for technical development and launch in the sandbox environment.

Potential Risks and Mitigation Strategies:

Overall, there is a recognized high-risk of delayed, stalled, or the ultimate abandonment of California's DxF. The success depends on the collaboration of multiple organizations with varying electronic health record (EHR), data stores, care management platforms, interoperability interfaces and APIs. The success of the Sandbox Project also depends on open and respectful collaboration of this same group as they work to ***identify and address critical operational, technical and interoperability implementation challenges organizations will face as they begin to comply with DxF requirements.***



Risk	Mitigation
Failure to achieve consensus on use cases	The technical approach involves an established process to capture, review, and reconcile feedback throughout the project lifecycle
Failure to achieve consensus on data elements within the allocated time frame	The technical approach follows agile project management processes that allow flexibility in revising project schedule as needed; technical approach includes established processes to capture, review, and reconcile feedback throughout the project lifecycle.
Issues of trust between diverse stakeholder groups, specifically for smaller entities that are often in competition for funding and other resources while working toward similar aims	No intellectual property will be requested or shared as part of this project. The Project is solely focused on gathering functional requirements that can be used to inform future product or policy development. The project uses synthetic data in testing.