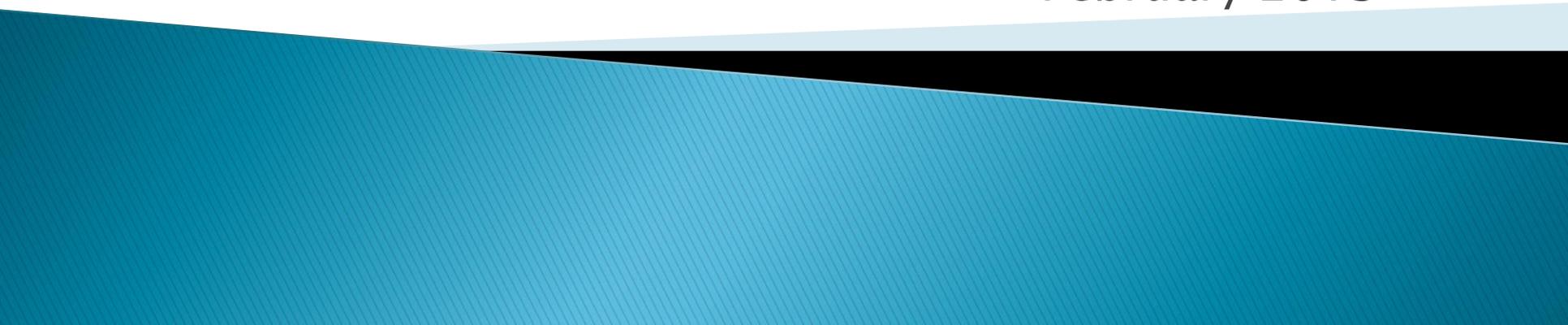# ANSWERS: Alaska's P-20W Statewide Longitudinal Data System

Briefing to the Next Steps Work Group

Kerry Thomas, Project Manager

February 2013

ANSWERS: Alaska's P-20W SLDS

- Project background
- Mission/objectives
- Core partners
- Governance structure
- Communication/collaboration plans
- Timeline

Project Background

- Four partnering agencies
  - Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
  - Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
  - Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
  - University of Alaska

- Received a three-year, $4 million grant from the Institute for Education Sciences (IES) to link Alaska's K-12 data system with postsecondary and workforce data to provide policymakers, educators, and the public needed information about program outcomes and linkages across the education and workforce systems
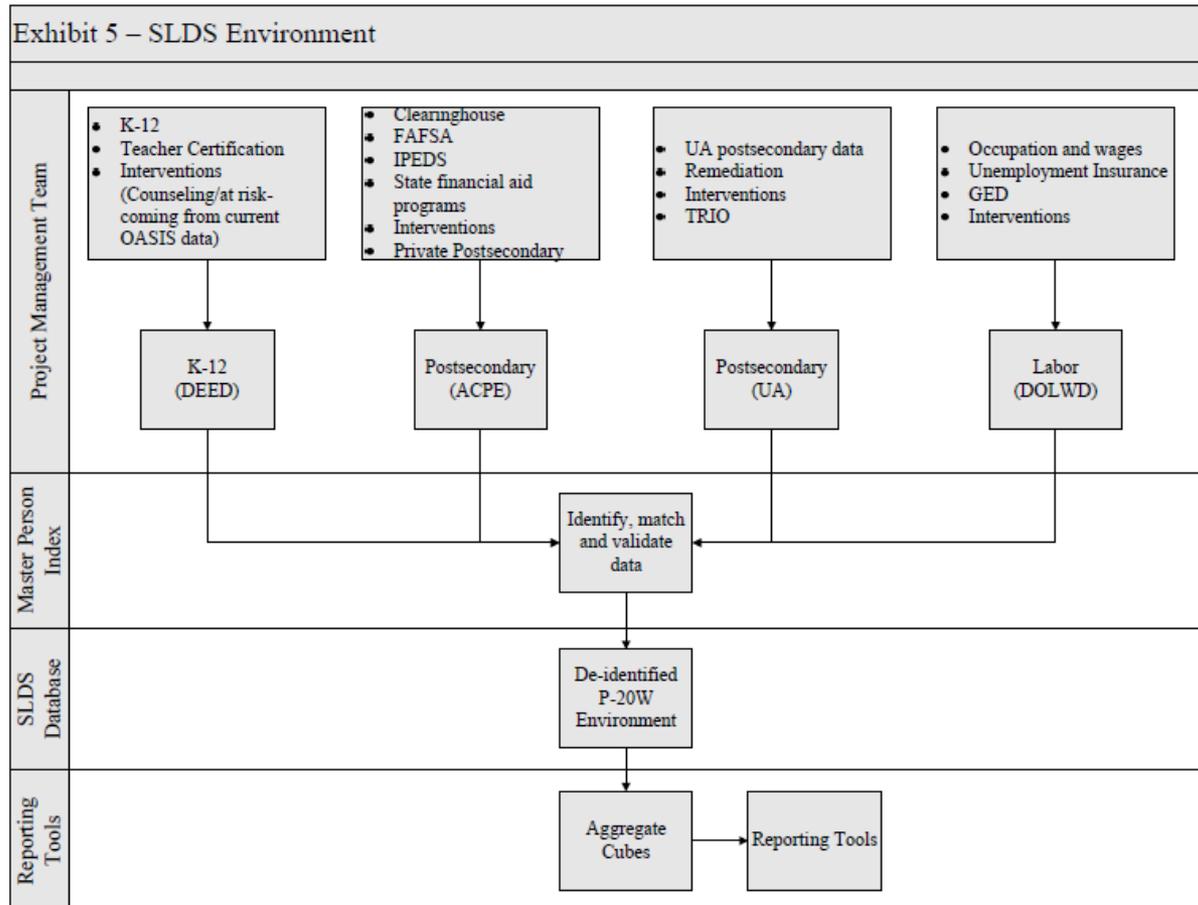
Mission/objectives

▶ Mission: Deliver outcomes information to Alaska stakeholders to assess, evaluate and improve the state's education and career development pipeline.

▶ Primary overarching goals:
  ◦ Develop a governance team engaged in the practice of using data to inform decision-making and who understand the value of this process for the state;
  ◦ Create a secure statewide longitudinal data system that allows de-identified data about P-20W students and their educational programs and employment to be linked together accurately , securely, and confidentially to better understand and inform policy makers on the education to workforce cycle; and
  ◦ Create timely reports, dashboards, and information products to better inform research and policy making in improving Alaska's education and workforce outcomes; and, increase transparency around educational outcomes

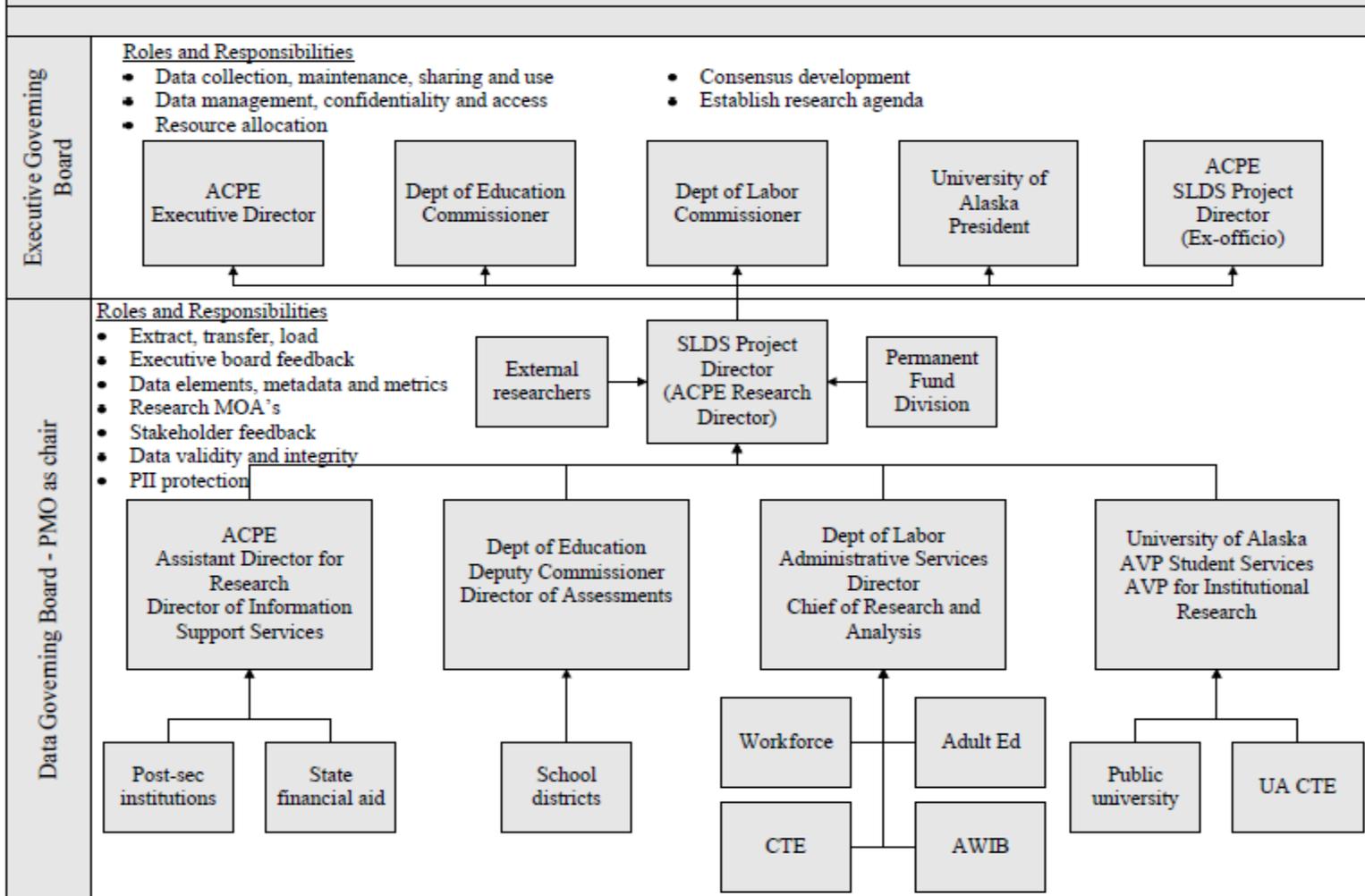# SLDS Mission/Objectives Overview

Exhibit 5 – SLDS Environment

Core Partners/Governance

- Executive Governance
  - ACPE Executive Director
  - Commissioner of Education
  - Commissioner of Labor
  - President of the University of Alaska
- Data Steward Governance
  - Policy governance team
  - Technical/data governance team

Core Partner Responsibilities

Exhibit 11 – Governance Structure/Roles

Executive Governing Board

Roles and Responsibilities
- Data collection, maintenance, sharing and use
- Data management, confidentiality and access
- Resource allocation
- Consensus development
- Establish research agenda

- ACPE Executive Director
- Dept of Education Commissioner
- Dept of Labor Commissioner
- University of Alaska President
- ACPE SLDS Project Director (Ex-officio)

Data Governing Board - PMO as chair

Roles and Responsibilities
- Extract, transfer, load
- Executive board feedback
- Data elements, metadata and metrics
- Research MOA's
- Stakeholder feedback
- Data validity and integrity
- PII protection

- External researchers
- SLDS Project Director (ACPE Research Director)
- Permanent Fund Division

- ACPE Assistant Director for Research Director of Information Support Services
- Dept of Education Deputy Commissioner Director of Assessments
- Dept of Labor Administrative Services Director Chief of Research and Analysis
- University of Alaska AVP Student Services AVP for Institutional Research

- Post-sec institutions
- State financial aid
- School districts
- Workforce
- Adult Ed
- CTE
- AWIB
- Public university
- UA CTE

Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

Executive Governance Roles

- Determine membership, duties, authorities
- Determine how governance activities and changes to rules are submitted, considered and implemented
- Determine who will have access to data; approve user categories and associated levels and methods of data access
- Determine/approve public communications protocols
- Ensure only appropriate uses of SLDS data
- Ensure protection of PII and investigate complaints

Note: Project director and project manager serve as staff to executive governance body.

Data Stewards Governing Board

- Policy level:
  - Propose policies and implement those approved by executive body; document procedures
  - Consider information requests and implement data access rules
- Technical level:
  - Determine, define and document data elements and metadata
  - Determine technical processes/ETL protocols
  - As approved by executives, develop and deploy MOAs and associated interagency agreements

Communications/collaboration Plans

- Key information needs identified over past several years and implementation workgroup adopted nine high level policy questions
- Partners identified key stakeholders at policy and practitioner levels
- Series of surveys, interviews and statewide presentations scheduled
- Nancy Smith, PhD, previous NCES SLDS director traveled to Alaska to provide support and assistance in project communications and validation of policy questions
- Results to be reported to statewide stakeholder community

Timelines

- Six primary project phases:
  - Plan, prepare, analyze and develop methodology, governance, needs requirements and data models (7/1/12–4/30/13)
  - Procure, install and test server hardware, software, networked data storage, backup and disaster recovery solution (5/1/13– 9/30/14)
  - Develop SLDS environments (7/1/13–6/30/14)
  - Identify and develop reporting platform, portal, reports and user roles (7/1/14–04/30/15)
  - Develop and deploy training protocols (1/1/15–6/30/15)
  - Develop project sustainability plan (7/1/14–6/30/15)

Contact for More Information

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