

Data Governance in Practice

Health and Human Services Oversight Committee
May 28, 2026

Department of
HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES



Agenda

- Data Governance – Are we using it?
- Data Governance – Is it Working?
- Privacy Impact Assessments

Data Governance – Are We Using It?

Data governance is now embedded into how DHHS reviews systems, controls access, deploys reporting, and responds to risk.

DHHS is using governance to make data use safer, more consistent, and more accountable — while still enabling better decisions.

What changed

Governance is no longer just a committee structure. It is becoming a repeatable way to manage data risk and improve data quality.

Why it matters

Programs can use data with clearer rules, defined approvals, and stronger privacy and security controls.

How we know

The Department has defined roles, review points, access controls, PIAs, training, incident response, and a mature EBI platform.

Data Governance – Is It Working?

Yes — the evidence is the shift from one-time controls to repeatable governance practices.

Working means:
consistent roles + repeatable reviews + controlled access + measurable improvement

Defined roles

Boards, councils, stewards, liaisons, and escalation paths are in place.

Pre-production review

PIAs evaluate risk before new systems collect personal information.

Access discipline

Role-based controls and approvals support the least privilege principle.

Feedback loop

Training, incident response, and lessons learned strengthen practices over time.

Bottom line: DHHS has the core governance infrastructure in place and is now focused on disciplined execution and measurable maturity.

Privacy Impact Assessments: Risk Review Before Data Collection

PIAs answer what data is collected, why it is needed, who can access it, and how risk is mitigated.

1

Catalog

System, owner, data, and purpose

2

Assess

Privacy risk to individuals

3

Define

Access need and legal basis

4

Mitigate

Controls, alternatives, and remediation

5

Approve

Approval and Board reporting

Statutory focus: for new systems after March 31, 2025, personal information is not collected until required assessment, mitigation, and approval steps are complete.



Thank you.

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