

# UT-NEDSS UPDATE

MARCH 13, 2008

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**CSI SITE VISIT IV** 1

**RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS** 1

**NEXT STEPS** 2

**HOW TO STAY CONNECTED** 2

**GLOSSARY** 2

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **FOURTH SITE VISIT A GREAT SUCCESS!**
- **MANY PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE DURING THE PAST MONTH**
- **PLEASE VISIT THE PROJECT WEB SITE**
- **NEXT STEPS IDENTIFIED**

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT SITE VISITS

Collaborative Software Initiative (CSI) conducted another successful site visit in Utah last month. The CSI UT-NEDSS software development team visited the Utah Department of Health and six local health departments (LHDs) (including the Summit County Public Health Department, Utah County Health Department, Davis County Health Department, Weber-Morgan Health Department, Tooele County Health Department and Salt Lake Valley Health Department).

The development team wanted to observe relevant work activities, discuss business and workflow processes and have an opportunity to meet with public health partners. The site visits helped the development team to gain further understanding of the project roadmap so that they can see the project's whole picture and make good incremental development decisions along the way.

Health department subject matter experts and the development team discussed the desired features

of UT-NEDSS during the site visits. The team identified not only the common themes among public health departments, but the nuances that distinguish each of the departments. This information will enable the team to develop software that meets the needs of as many people as possible. An overview of the visit can be found in a slide presentation here: <http://tinyurl.com/2kd9ah>.

The CSI development team hopes to visit additional LHDs on subsequent visits.



UT-NEDSS—Connecting local and state public health departments and partners

## RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following accomplishments have been made towards the UT-NEDSS project since the last update:

- Iteration (see *Glossary* on page 2) 1.1 was completed. The focus of this iteration was on building the ability for one to enter, view and export basic morbidity report data.
- Iteration 1.2 was also completed and focused on building the record search functionality, adding pre-populated drop-down lists to fields, and enhancing the amount of information captured in the application's morbidity report.
- Iteration 1.3 "stories" (see *Glossary*) were prioritized and the iteration's development was initiated. The types of functionality that will be developed during this iteration will consist of

the ability to navigate more efficiently throughout the application, refining the search capability (e.g., by full name, age, status, jurisdiction, event date range, etc.) and defining security issues/needs.

- Iteration 1.4 planning was also initiated. The focus of this iteration will be on addressing several security issues and building the ability to assign and add user roles and permissions.
- The project collaboration website was upgraded to include "wiki" (see *Glossary*) technology. The technology will facilitate collaboration among the development team and the public health subject matter experts.
- CSI had another successful site visit with public health partners.

## NEXT STEPS

The following items are the next steps, which have been identified for the UT-NEDSS project development:

- Iteration 1.3 will be completed Friday, March 14, 2008.
- Iteration 1.4 development will begin March 15, 2008 and is scheduled for completion on March 31, 2008. The completion of Iteration 1.4 will also signal the completion of Release 1. It will be helpful at that time to have public health stakeholders review and provide input on the application.
- The features needed for Release 2 will continue to be refined. This release will focus on the ability to enter, view, update and export case investigation form data. The functionality planned for this release is scheduled for release on June 30, 2008.

**“The site visits will allow us to spend more time developing and less time wondering” [about public health’s desired features of the system].**

**- Mike Herrick, CSI**

## STAY UPDATED AND KNOW WHERE TO GET INFORMATION

There are several ways to stay updated with and connected to UT-NEDSS project activities, including the following:

- Continue to read the UT-NEDSS project update, which will continue to be provided on a regular basis to stakeholders throughout the duration of the project.
- Visit the project’s collaborative website here: <https://www.csinitiative.net> (please contact Mike Herrick if you cannot access the site).
- Contact David Jackson, the UT-NEDSS Product Manager.
- Contact Mike Herrick, the UT-NEDSS Program Manager.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

David Jackson, UDOH  
UT-NEDSS Product Manager  
Email: [davidjackson@utah.gov](mailto:davidjackson@utah.gov)

Mike Herrick, CSI  
UT-NEDSS Program Manager  
Email: [mike@csinitiative.com](mailto:mike@csinitiative.com)

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following software development terms will be used regularly in UT-NEDSS updates and discussions:

- **Iterations** — A subset of “Release” features that are used to create consistently small-sized units of work that are then taken on by the development team. They are typically much smaller than the size of the overall project. Iterations allow the development team to achieve progress in very short periods of time.
- **Lean and Agile Planning** — A software development methodology that promotes industry best practices that emphasize teamwork, customer involvement and the frequent creation of small, working pieces (“Iterations”) of the total system.
- **Releases** — Made up of one or more “Iterations”. Releases contain a set of functionality that is useful to users.
- **Stories** — A user story describes functionality that will be valuable to a user and is composed of a written description of the functionality, conversations about it to flesh out the details and tests that convey and document the details (which can be used to determine when a story is complete).
- **Wiki** — A website or similar online resource which allows users to add and edit content collectively.

**We are on the web!**

<https://ut-nedss.csinitiative.net/>