

FPF Updates

- New initiatives on student success on college campuses
 - George State's use of data to improve graduation and retention and changing their financial aid system using that data
 - Mount St. Mary's misused data to identify students who are least likely to succeed
 - We want to bring institutions together to create privacy principles for student success data
 - Please let Sara know if you are interested in participating

Nick Hart from the Bipartisan Policy Center on the Evidence-Based Policymaking Act

- This Bill is something that had been championed by Paul Ryan and Patty Murray and was designed to take half of the recommendations that came out of the Commission for Evidence-Based Policymaking
- Law passed back in 2016 with 15 politically appointed members (5 privacy experts) and folks who have been in research capacities who helped lead federal agencies tried to grapple with how to better use government collected data while protecting privacy
 - Final report at the end of 2017 was a unanimous set of recommendation with 3 core themes
 - Improve access and accessibility to government data
 - In making data more accessible, strengthen privacy safeguards
 - To do either of those things, government needs the resources to make it happen
 - When that was put out, Paul Ryan and Patty Murray really were committed to making it happen
- Act addresses each of the 3 themes, but not all of them, because they were interested in getting the legislation out quickly
- What is in the bill? (3 core titles)
 - Basic capacity issues
 - Establishes evaluation officers
 - People who can generate evidence
 - Construct something called a learning agenda to encourage federal agencies to describe the questions they need answers to
 - Open government data
 - Open Government Data Act incorporated into this bill
 - Used this in the context of what the commission said, and improved its privacy constructs
 - Originally did not fully address what sensitive data was
 - Incorporates Chief Data Officers in every federal agency
 - Says who a chief data officer should be
 - The hope is the way this role has been framed is someone working on data utility on the front end, but that the privacy and confidentiality are explicit throughout the entire process

- Strengthens Privacy Protections
 - Statistical agencies can use CIPSEA for people who are providing analysis of data
 - It is a very strong authority with big penalties for violations
 - One of the things the evidence commission said in 2017 is that CIPSEA is a good foundation to work off of, but we need to make sure we are truly keeping data confidential
 - Programs that are more administrative in nature can be brought within the CIPSEA confidentiality framework
 - Statistical policy directive #1: back in 2014, someone issued a guidance document targeted at statistical agencies saying they are obligated to think about public trust
 - The law codifies that memo
 - By putting this in the law, it gives a strong case for statistical agencies to make to create tension around how they are limiting access appropriately to certain data and public trust is at the forefront of what they do
- There were only 17 no votes on the bill in the House, but it was overall a very bipartisan piece of legislation
- What happens now?
 - There is a lot of work to be done now
 - Federal Data Strategy: they have tried to take some of the framework that came out of the commission on data based policymaking and are trying to help government do better in using data
 - When they put out the next iteration in the document, there will be a lot of similarities to the Evidence Act
 - There will be a release of action drafts that agencies have to do over the next year
 - Expected in early March and will have about 30 days of a feedback window

Questions

1. **Is the act going to change how grantees who do studies for agencies or interconnected web of researchers does their work?**
 - Probably, but not yet clear
 - There is nothing here that effects or directs new data collection
 - The practical effect is it is going to set the tone for states and universities
 - Department of Education is looking about what this would mean for grantees, but as of yet there is no determination of what will happen one way or another
 - There is a lot of nuance and flexibility in the way O&B can interpret some of the provisions of the la
2. **How is CDO working in the data landscape and what makes them different than other C level positions?**
 - Chief evaluation officer and Chief data officer position is created with this law
 - There are certain things not happening across government agencies
 - C Eval Officer is someone who can have as their job to provide leadership to encourage evaluation activities
 - i. Making sure those evaluations are used in senior leadership

- Chief Data Officer needs to make sure the data collected will eventually be used
 - i. Helping to create a data inventory
 - ii. Responsibilities around privacy and confidentiality
 - Systems focused lens on the responsibilities of a CIO
 - i. Conversation around data quality and utility has not come to forefront of the discussion
- 3. You said this act took half of the recommendations from the commissions, so what did they miss?**
- Federal agencies should adopt emerging technologies, which is not addressed in the Evidence Act
 - i. But there is exciting work happening on this in Congress
 - National Secure Data Service was attempting to combine all 3 of the tenets that came out of the report as a shared service center
 - i. Congress wants to have a conversation about this, so they included an advisory committee in Title 1
 - 1. Short term 2 year advisory committee on how to make it happen

Note: We are going to be following the OMB recommendations pretty closely and if we comment, we will make sure to circulate them to you.