Cradle-to-Career Ad Hoc Committee for Strategic Planning Staff Report

Date Report Issued: April 26, 2023
Attention: Members of Cradle-to-Career Ad Hoc Committee for Strategic Planning
Subject: Summary of the **Analytical Data** Goal and Objectives
Staff Contact: Marykate Cruz Jones, Chief of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

At this meeting, the members of Cradle-to-Career's (C2C) Ad Hoc Committee for Strategic Planning will have the opportunity to discuss and recommend proposed goals and objectives to the Governing Board focused on Analytical Tools.

Requested Action:

After review and consideration of the current duties completed by the Office of Cradle-to-Career Data System (Office) related to Analytical Tools, as well as the requirements from statute, the Ad Hoc Committee will determine what course of action it would like to pursue. Among its options are:

1. Approve the goal and objective(s) as presented.
2. Amend the goal and objective(s) as presented.

Background:

The authorizing legislation (Assembly Bill 132, Postsecondary Education Trailer Bill, 2021) included a requirement that technology procurement must align with the State Administrative Manual, including completing the California Department of Technology (CDT) Project Approval Lifecycles (PAL). PAL is a four-stage process for ensuring interest holders have been consulted, appropriate analyses of use cases and solutions have been completed, sufficient staffing is in place to manage the project, and activities align with plans once underway. Within the first year of the Office's existence, it completed Stages 1 and 2 of CDT's PAL and

reviewed data point definitions identified during the planning process. The Office also defined procurement and implementation plans for technology products and issued a request for proposals (RFP) for data warehouse options.

During this current fiscal year, the Office has been focused on building the technical infrastructure and collecting initial data sets from data providers. The Office has begun the user centered design process, which will inform the initial dashboard and query builder interfaces. The Office also completed Stages 3 and 4 of CDT's PAL.

In addition to these endeavors, there are also mandatory legislative requirements that need to be upheld. Within the first year of the Office's existence, privacy policies were started, via the PAL process and contracts were initiated via the RFP for the system integrator. Additionally, the Office worked to ensure data quality through the development of data definitions and file specifications in collaboration with each of C2C's data partners. For this fiscal year, the Office has been working toward ensuring availability and privacy of data, improving data quality, creating data sets, and conducting a user centered design process for the analytic tools. Additionally, the Office has been reviewing and approving plans for professional development, operational tools, topics for summary reports, and significant changes to analytical tools. Although the first steps of these mandatory reporting requirements have been completed, these projects will require continued maintenance and development. By fiscal year 2023-2024, the Office will support data requests and by fiscal year 2025-2026, the Office will create user-facing tools to explore policy problems and solutions. As the Ad Hoc Committee finalizes a goal and objectives related to strategy and operations, it is imperative to remember the other concurrent responsibilities set forth by the timeline and legislative requirement. For more information about ongoing projects, please reference Appendix A in the September 2022 Report to the Legislature.

Statement of the Problem:

Data is siloed in different state-level entities, making it hard for decision-makers to answer important questions.

Analytical Data Goal:

Build a linked analytical dataset that connects existing state-level data on education and job outcomes that will empower decision-makers to answer important questions.

Possible Objectives:

- Data providers submit reliable and timely data annually that C2C links and keeps secure with first submission by Fall 2023
- First dashboard on a priority topic by Spring 2024
- A query builder that enables disaggregation by Spring 2025
- Develop data request process for the Secure Data Enclave for researchers to conduct studies by Winter 2024
- By Summer 2026, the linked analytical data set contains multiple domains (education, workforce, health and human services)