

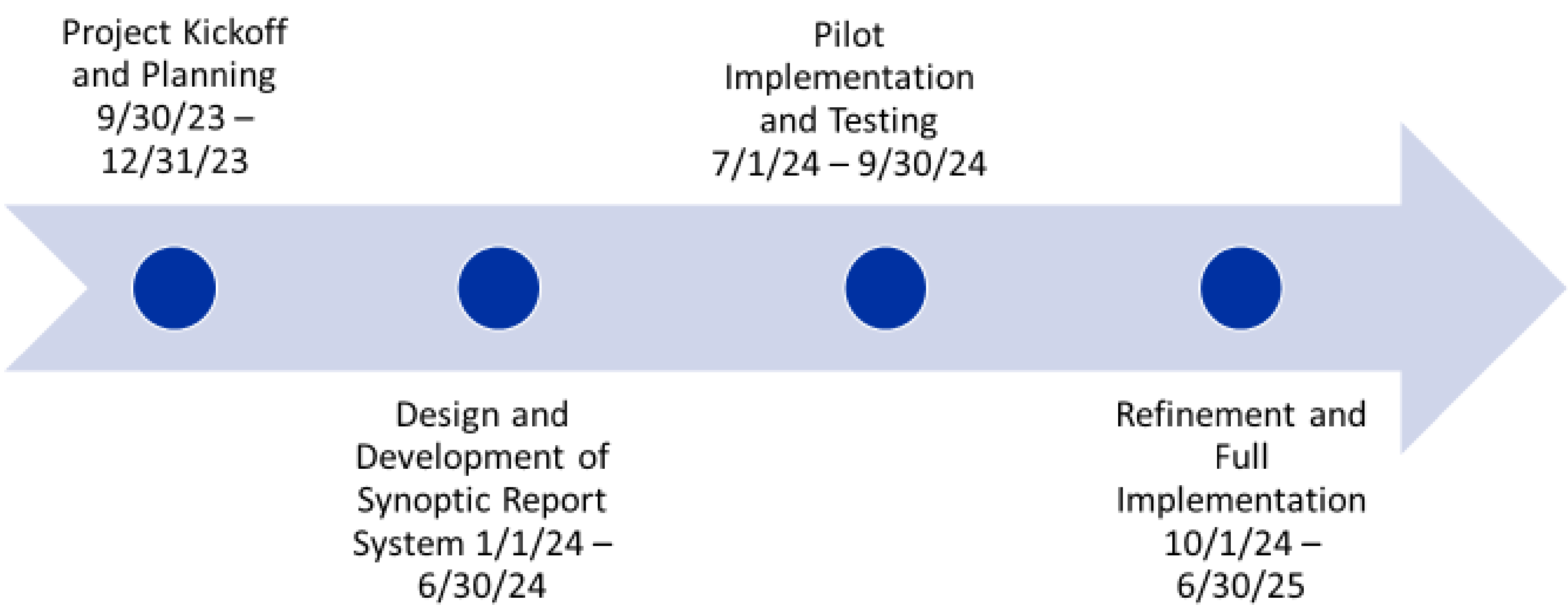


MDI Connect Awardee Spotlight: Medical Examiner and Forensic Services at Western Michigan University, Homer Stryker, M.D. School of Medicine (WMed)

About the Awardee: Medical Examiner and Forensic Services at Western Michigan University, Homer Stryker, M.D. School of Medicine (WMed) serves twelve counties in Michigan as the medical examiner and provides forensic science consultation services to multiple other counties in Michigan and Indiana. In 2022, WMed 4,884 reported deaths, with 3,770 deaths investigated and 1,626 postmortem exams of which 1,245 were complete autopsies. WMed participates in the Medicolegal Death Investigation Connect (MDI Connect) which provides a supportive environment for selected MDI offices to innovate using standards-based approaches to improving data quality and timeliness that are scalable and reusable across multiple locations with different data entities.

Description of Project: The main objective of this project is to design and develop a synoptic autopsy reporting system. The envisioned project addresses the drug overdose epidemic in the United States by modernizing the MDI autopsy data process. A key challenge is improving the quality and efficiency of autopsy reports without simply presenting them as data lists. The proposed solution involves creating a synoptic autopsy report system that attempts to standardize data entry through the development of commonly used medical descriptions, terms and cause of death statements. As part of their project, WMed will develop, pilot and test their system. This will be followed by refinement and broader implementation with plans for upscaling and user training. WMed also plans to evaluate their project and disseminate any lessons learned to the broader MDI community.

Project Timeline



About MDI Connect: MDI Connect is a collaborative learning environment where MDI offices, data-sharing partners, vendors, and FHIR subject matter experts can work together to modernize MDI data practices and work towards interoperability. The goal of this collaborative is to create reusable tools and approaches that will reduce data entry efforts, reduce efforts in exchanging data with others and increase access to information for office functioning and research. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) Collaborating Office for Medical Examiners and Coroners (COMEC) and the CDC Foundation work jointly on this project.

Acronyms
MDI – Medicolegal Death Investigation
CMS – Case Management System
HL7 – Health Level 7
FHIR – Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources

*This **Medicolegal Death Investigation Novel Data Modernization Initiative** is 100 percent funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies and is part of **MDI Connect**, a medicolegal death investigation FHIR implementation collaborative supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.*