

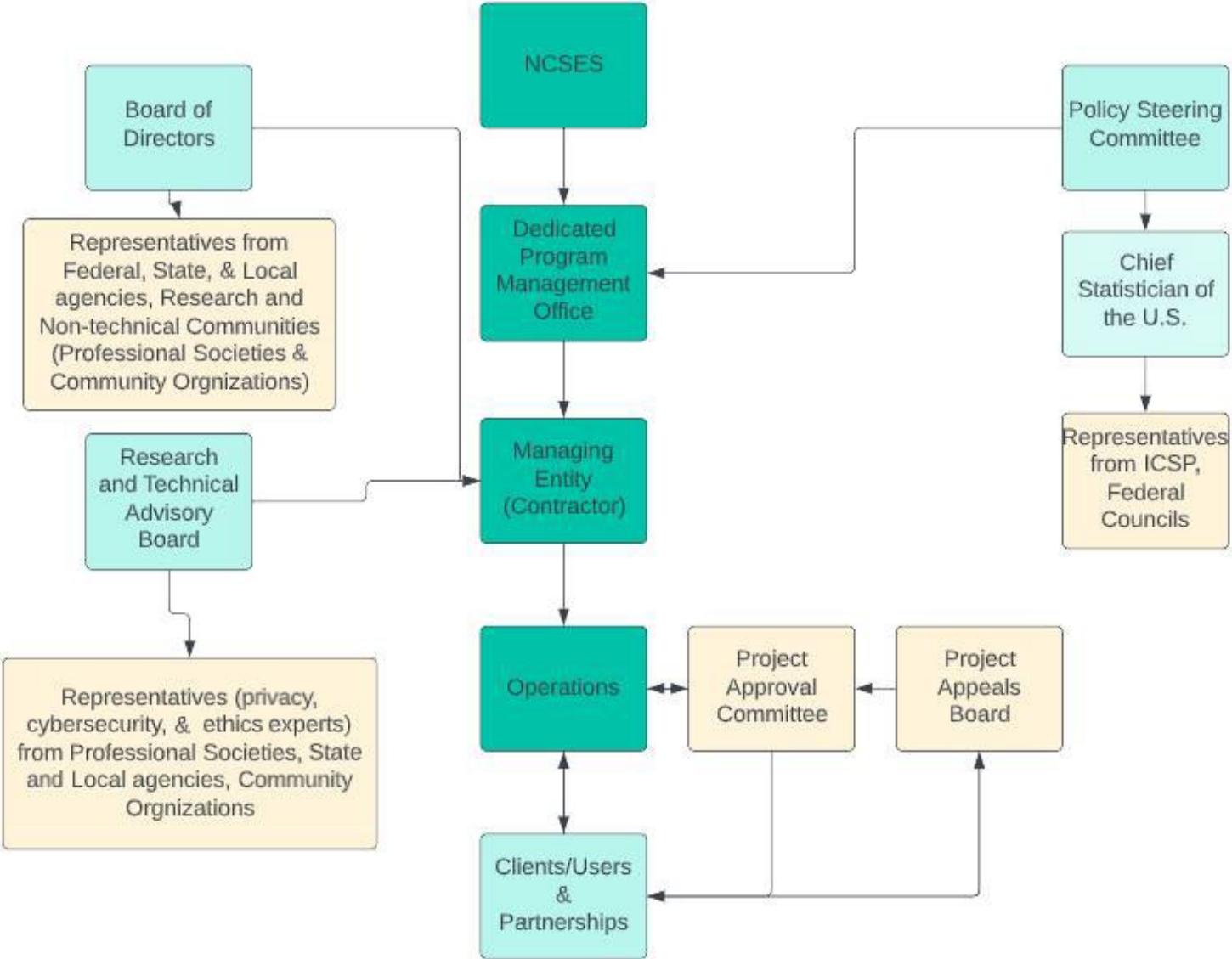
Facilitated Discussion: Governance, Transparency, and Accountability

July 2022

Recommendation: Government Owned, Government Contracted

The NSDS should be a legally recognized entity that is government owned and contractor operated. This hybrid approach would have a dedicated government Program Management Office (NCSES PMO) within the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) and a dedicated contractor responsible for managing and operating the NSDS. This model will allow the NSDS the flexibility that it needs to innovate and to recruit and pay high quality staff, while also ensuring that the responsible contractor can be held accountable and deselected, if necessary.

NSDS Organizational Structure



NSDS Organizational Structure and Governance

Discussion Question 1: The recommendations on the components of the organizational structure are complex—what are the most essential features that ACDEB wants to convey for the long-term vision? What are the important features for first steps?

- Many of the recommendations reference value and the risk-utility metrics, how will “value” be defined? Value for whom? Value for what? Who decides?
- Is the subcommittee recommending implementing the governance structure in a phased approach (with the target state being the full org chart and components)? Or is each piece of the org chart required immediately? Why or why not?
- This org structure looks a lot like the one recommended in the Hart-Potok report. Could you describe the differences between the two and how the subcommittee weighed the pros and cons of different options to arrive at this structure?

NSDS Organizational Structure and Governance

Discussion Question 2: How does the org structure fit with the federal government requirements around contract and oversight responsibilities?

- Why are the Policy Steering Committee and Board of Directors separate entities providing input at separate levels (NCSES vs. contracting entity)? How has the question of having non-federal voting members on bodies within the governance structure been addressed?
- Unlike the other components of the org structure, there is not a more detailed description for the approval process—could you give more clarity on what is envisioned there, and how it fits into ongoing efforts with the Evidence Act/CIPSEA 2018 SAP requirements? And other Committee recommendations on the SAP? For example, would that the Project Approval Committee make decisions on Title 13 and Title 26 protected data?

Discussion Question 3: Some aspects of the recommendations on the components of the org structure are unclear. What level of detail is necessary to convey the most essential elements?

- The recommendations on the components of the org structure (i.e., Managing Entity, Board of Directors, Policy Steering Committee, and Science and Technology Advisory Board) seem very prescriptive—is this level of detail desirable and/or necessary? What are the findings to support this?
- Could you provide more clarity/findings on what is meant by operational “nodes” and how they fit into the structure? It seems like that’s where most of the work would happen, but they aren’t shown.