

Discussion 5: Case Study- KIDSNET

Objective

This case study, provided by the Kennedy School of Government, explains a state-wide policy to implement an electronic medical records system to improve healthcare for the state's children. At the heart of all issues over implementation of medical records, there is a privacy concern for patient confidentiality. This issue can be discussed in terms of a security-liberty-efficiency tradeoff using Stone's framework. Also interesting in this case is the number of other questions it raises about technology policy, including funding technology, equal access to technology, creating incentives to encourage use of the technology, and eliminating unnecessary waste in the form of inefficiencies. Therefore, this case will be used to continue a discussion of Stone's concepts from *Policy Paradox*, but will also expand that discussion to one about challenges that arise when implementing technology policy.

Assignment

Read the case provided, "The KIDSNET Story...". Pay particular attention to the challenges facing the KIDSNET system and the stakeholders involved. Be prepared to discuss the case, with emphasis on the cause of the challenges facing KIDSNET and potential solutions.

Deliverable

Prepare a 2-3 paragraph write-up to how you would address the challenges facing KIDSNET. Questions you may want to consider are as follows:

- Dose the system adequately addresses the goals of equity, efficiency, liberty, and security?
- Why is KIDSNEY unsuccessful? What would make it more successful?
- Would the system be different if participation was mandatory instead of voluntary?
- How would you address the problem of differing levels of access to the technology?
- How can the government encourage diffusion of new technology?
- Would the failing KIDSNET program best be fixed with new technology or new policy?

Your response should be typed and no longer than one page. It will be due at the conclusion of your discussion session. The responses will be graded on a pass-fail metric. While grammar and spelling error will not count against you, please use complete and clear sentences to structure your thoughts and ideas.