Health Information Technology Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
July 15, 2021	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Zoom Meeting Recording

Participant Name and Attendance

Council Members					
Joseph Quaranta (Co-Chair)	X	(Adam Prizio) Ted Doolittle, OHA	X	Lisa Stump	
Victoria Veltri, Interim OHS HITO (Co-Chair)	X	Stacy Beck		Patrick Charmel	X
Joe Stanford, DSS	X	Robert Rioux		Alan Kaye, MD	X
Elizabeth Taylor, DMHAS	X	David Fusco	X	Dina Berlyn	X
Cindy Butterfield, DCF	X	Nicolangelo Scibelli	X	Cassandra Murphy	
(Robert Richeson for) Sharonda Carlos, DOC	X	Patricia Checko	X	Chuck Podesta	
Vanessa Hinton, DPH	X	Kimberly Martone, OHS	X	Ken Ferrucci	
Dennis C. Mitchell, DDS	X	William Petit, MD		Pareesa Charmchi Goodwin	X
Mark Raymond, CIO	X	Jeanette DeJesus		Dr. Susan Israel	X
Sandra Czunas, OSC	X	Robert Blundo, AHCT			
Supporting Leadership					
Tina Kumar, OHS	X	Terry Bequette, CedarBridge	X	Tom Agresta, MD, UConn Health	X
Carol Robinson, CedarBridge	X	Kassi Miller, CedarBridge		Alan Fontes, UConn AIMS	X
Vatsala Pathy, CedarBridge	X	Craig Jones, CedarBridge			

Agenda

	Topic	Responsible Party	Time
1.	**Welcome and Call to Order**	**Dr. Joe Quaranta, Co-Chair**	**1:00 PM**
	The regularly scheduled meeting of the Health Information Technology Advisory Council was held on Thursday, July 15, 2021, by webinar. Dr. Quaranta welcomed council members and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.		
2.	**Public Comment**	**Attendees**	**1:02 PM**
	There was no public comment.		
3.	**Review and Approval of Minutes June 17, 2021**	**Council Members**	**1:05 PM**
	The review and approval of the meeting minutes was postponed to later in the meeting.		
4.	**Advanced Planning Document (Funding Request) Update**	**Terry Bequette, CedarBridge Group**	**1:10 PM**

	Terry Bequette, of CedarBridge Group, provided the Advanced Planning Document update (see meeting presentation here).
	• Highlights of the presentation included:
	  ▪ An overview of funding requests being prepared for submission
	  ▪ The purpose and role of HITAC		

<table>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="3">

- - The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) era ends and transition to funding being aligned with the Medicaid Enterprise System.
  - Medicaid Enterprise System (MES) funding parameters
  - Current funding requests – initiatives and costs
- The Council discussed the presentation. There was a question about CRISP and whether what is being built would be a model and a clone of the state of Maryland's. It was stated that CRISP is the technology backbone, and the technology and functionality is what will be implemented in Connecticut as Connie. A concern was expressed about how much time has been spent on finding one to do and that the pace did not move a little faster.
- There was also a question about why there is no longer outside funding for onboarding providers, how much was used for this year, and whether providers are fully subscribed. It was noted that for this year there was approximately 9.9 million in technical assistance dollars that could be drawn down on. A milestone-based program has been implemented. The breakdown of the dollars for what has been distributed and the dollars amount yet to be distributed can be shared. It was noted that the amounts will not be fully subscribed to the $9.9 million level and important for the Council to see the numbers. There was a suggestion to share with the Council how much money was subscribed, where funds went, and the costs to onboard providers.

Dr. Quaranta thanked Terry Bequette for the presentation. For more information on this presentation, please see the meeting recording link below.
https://ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/HITAC_Mtg_Recording_071521.mp4

</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>**Review and Approval of Minutes June 17, 2021**</td><td>**Council Members**</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="3">

- At this time, member attendance was taken by roll call. It was determined that a quorum had been established.
- Dr. Quaranta asked for a motion to approve the June 17, 2021, Health IT Advisory Council meeting minutes. Mark Raymond created the motion. Victoria Veltri seconded. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved.

</td></tr>
<tr><td>5.</td><td>**Health Information Exchange Strategies from Other States**</td><td>**Carol Robinson, CEO, Vatsala Pathy, Senior Director, CedarBridge Group**</td><td>**1:35 PM**</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="3">

Carol Robinson of the CedarBridge Group presented on the Health Information Exchange Strategies from Other States.

- A definitional guide of sustained permanence of Connie's HIE Services was provided.
- It was noted that HITAC serves an important, ongoing advisory role per Connecticut General Statute 17b-59a(3)(c)
- A few of the policies, incentives, regulations, requirements, strategies, and services supported by stakeholders and offered by HIEs in other states was provided.
- There was a question regarding the bidirectional aspect and whether other states have total patient access as is required under the Connecticut statute. It was mentioned that some research and comparative analysis could be done over time during this planning process.
- Comments were made in the Zoom chat feature (see comments here).

Dr. Quaranta thanked Ms. Robinson for the presentation. For more information on this presentation, please see the meeting recording link below.

</td></tr>
</table>

	https://ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/HITAC_Mtg_Recording_071521.mp4		
6.	**Findings and Draft Recommendations for Connecticut's Five-Year Statewide Health IT Plan**	**Vatsala Pathy, Senior Director, CedarBridge Group**	**1:55 PM**

	Vatsala Pathy, of CedarBridge, presented on the findings and draft recommendations for Connecticut's Five-Year Statewide Health IT Plan.
	• The draft recommendations are intended to be a starting place and feedback is welcome.
	• The Connecticut General Statute requires the creation of the State Health IT Plan, and the environmental scan (eScan) is the first step in the creation of the State Health IT Plan.
	• The process and timeline for the Statewide Health IT Plan was reviewed.
	• It was mentioned that some revisions have been made to the draft recommendations since the last HITAC meeting. The Council discussed the following six draft recommendations:
	  ▪ Recommendation 1: Strategies for Widespread Use and Sustainability of Connie
	  ▪ Recommendation 2: Systems and Strategies to Address Social Determinants of Health
	  ▪ Recommendation 3: Service Coordination and Data Integration Across State Agencies
	  ▪ Recommendation 4: Support Adoption of Electronic Health Records and HIE Services by Behavioral Health Providers
	  ▪ Recommendation 5: A Best Possible Medication History HIE Service, Connected Through Connie
	  ▪ Recommendation 6: Health Information Privacy to Protect Individuals and Families
	• Next steps were reviewed and include a 30-day public comment period, interactive feedback webinars, finalize the recommendations and present to HITAC with straw person prioritization plan, establish an interagency workgroup to finetune recommendations related to state agencies, and finalize implementation plan with consideration of sustainability strategies timing. There was a suggestion to utilize existing state structures rather than creating a new interagency workgroup.
	• Council members made comments in the Zoom chat feature (see comments here). There was a suggestion that the language on HIE should be patient focused. It was noted that the patient should be represented in all aspects and not just a point addition. Ms. Pathy said the changes would be made to the language to reflect that.
	
	Dr. Quaranta thanked Ms. Pathy for the in-depth presentation. Several discussions ensued, for more information please see the link below.
	https://ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/HITAC_Mtg_Recording_071521.mp4		

7.	**Connie Update**	**Jenn Searls, Executive Director Connie**	**2:15 PM**
	• Jenn Searls presented the Connie update. • Ms. Searls spoke about the draft recommendations provided by CedarBridge. She agreed with a lot of the recommendations that were put forth. It was mentioned that with some of the behavioral health recommendations, there have been numerous conversations with		

	behavioral health providers. There is a wariness as behavioral health providers think about how they might approach data exchange in the state and figure out how best they can participate. There is willingness, but there is a cautiousness. For health information privacy education, it was mentioned that it is important to look at this beyond just Connie, and to look at data, data privacy, and patient rights across all manner of data exchange. • Connie has upcoming meetings with DPH and DSS to understand better the opportunities and places where they can all work together. • There have been conversations regarding MRPC with the project kicking off in the fall. • Clarification was provided about federal dollars. It was noted that before federal dollars can come to Connie for services, they must go through a six-month period of being live with collecting data, providing outcomes measures, and then getting certified by CMS before they are considered live with CMS. • Connie is continuing the work of technical onboarding with participating organizations. There is progress with getting organizations connected to Connie and continuous updates will be provided and shared. • It was noted that there are 32 new signers this month onto Connie, and they will be moving to the next stage and phase of technical onboarding. • Work has started with a Patient Access Task Force to develop a patient access policy, the requisite technology and, to figure out the technology to make it possible for patients. Connie reached out to the Consumer Advisory Council and asked for additional volunteers to participate on the Patient Access Task Force. Adam Prizio from the Office of Health Care Advocate was recently added to the committee. • There was no discussion on the presentation. Dr. Quaranta thanked Ms. Searls for the presentation, for more information please see the link below. https://ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/HITAC_Mtg_Recording_071521.mp4		
8.	**Announcements & General Discussion**	**Dr. Joe Quaranta, Council Members**	**2:50 PM**
	• Dr. Quaranta opened the floor for announcements and general discussion. There was no additional announcements or discussion.		
9.	**Wrap up and Meeting Adjournment**	**Dr. Joe Quaranta**	**3:00 PM**
	• The motion to adjourn was made by Patricia Checko. • The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.		

Upcoming Meeting Dates: August 19, 2021
Meeting information is located at: https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/HIT-Work-Groups/Health-IT- Advisory-Council