

Health Information Technology Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
November 19, 2020	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Zoom Meeting Recording

Council Members					
Allan Hackney, HITO (Co-Chair)	X	Ted Doolittle, OHA	X	Lisa Stump	X
Joseph Quaranta (Co-Chair)	X	Stacy Beck	X	Patrick Charmel	
Joe Stanford, DSS	X	Robert Rioux	X	Alan Kaye, MD	X
Elizabeth Taylor, DMHAS		David Fusco		Dina Berlyn	X
Cindy Butterfield, DCF		Nicolangelo Scibelli	X	Tekisha Everette	X
Cheryl Cepelak, DOC		Patricia Checko	X	Cassandra Murphy	X
Vanessa Hinton, DPH	X	Kimberly Martone, OHS	X	Chuck Podesta	X
Dennis C. Mitchell, DDS	X	William Petit, MD	X	Ken Ferrucci	
Mark Raymond, CIO	X	Jeanette DeJesus	X	Pareesa Charmchi Goodwin	X
Sandra Czunas, OSC	X	Robert Blundo, AHCT			
Supporting Leadership					
Victoria Veltri, OHS	X	Alan Fontes, UCONN AIMS		Terry Bequette, CedarBridge	X
Sean Fogarty, OHS	X	Tom Agresta, MD, UConn Health	X	Craig Jones, CedarBridge	
Adrian Texidor, OHS	X	Dawn Bonder, CedarBridge	X		
Tina Kumar, OHS	X	Carol Robinson, CedarBridge	X		

Agenda			
	Topic	Responsible Party	Time
1.	Welcome & Call to Order	Allan Hackney	1:00 PM

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	<p>Allan Hackney recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.</p> <p>Allan welcomed the Council’s newest member, Pareesa Goodwin and invited her to share an introduction with the advisors. Pareesa is the Executive Director of the non-profit CT Oral Health Initiative that focuses on oral health, policy, and advocacy. They focus on consumer and community voices those that have been underrepresented and underserved populations that do not have great access to oral health. Pareesa’s background is in public health and epidemiology in policy analysis.</p>		
2.	Public Comment	Attendees	1:05 PM
	<p>Please refer to John Brady Senior Vice President of CT Hospital Association public comment here: CHA Public Comment.</p>		
3.	Review and Approval of Minutes October 15, 2020	Council Members	1:10 PM
	<p>Allan Hackney asked for a motion to approve the October 15 meeting minutes. Joe Stanford created a motion. Dr. Petit seconded. Pareesa Charmchi Goodwin abstained. There was no further discussion. The minutes were approved.</p>		
4.	Introduce Permanent Connie Executive Director	Allan Hackney	1:15 PM
	<p>Allan Hackney introduced Jenn Searls, Connie’s permanent Executive Director, affirmed at the Connie Board meeting in November.</p> <p>Allan commented that he is thrilled to have Jenn join us and briefed the advisors on her background. Jenn was the Chief Operating Officer at the Saint Francis Healthcare Partners. Prior to this, Jenn was the Chief Information Officer of ProHealth Physicians. Allan added she is hands on in the use and need for data to deliver better and informed healthcare throughout the ecosystems, has a deep understanding of electronic health records system, and personally thoughtful and a collaborator.</p> <p>Allan introduced Jenn Searls to introduce herself to the advisors. Jenn thanked Allan, Michael Matthews, and Michelle Puhlick. She also continued to thank UConn AIMS, Velatura, CRISP, The Dept. of Social Services, the Office of Health Strategy, and the HITAC.</p> <p>Jenn shared that she is eager to get started Connie’s executive director and shares the sense of urgency and purpose to get Connie stood up and data flowing. Jenn commented that the number one job is to get data flowing securely, while maintaining patient privacy and confidentiality. She added the importance to get this done as seamless as possible and maintain sustainability. Jenn acknowledged that we cannot do this alone and needs the continued commitment to Connie and support as we move forward. Jenn welcomes feedback, criticism, comments, and ideas from the advisors on making Connie an invaluable and indispensable tool.</p> <p>Allan added to thank Mark Raymond, Lisa Stump, and John Vittner members of the Executive Director Search Committee who volunteered to lead entire process of executive director role.</p>		

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5.	Update on the Statewide Five-Year Information Technology Plan	Vatsala Pathy CedarBridge Group	1:25 PM
<p>Allan introduced Vatsala Pathy, Senior Director of CedarBridge Group to provide an update on the Statewide Five-Year IT Plan. Vatsala’s presentation can be referred to here: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OHS/Health-IT-Advisory-Council/Presentations/OHS_HITAC_Meeting-Presentation_111920-final.pdf#page=7.</p> <p>Vatsala welcomes any questions on the planning process for the State Health IT Plan. Dr. Alan Kaye asked for clarification if this plan is derived from the recommendations the HITAC already affirmed, or if they are the ones the Design Group is starting from?</p> <p>Vatsala responded that the plan is to build upon existing work that has been done to gather stakeholder input. We will use recommendation that came out of the environmental scan conducted in 2017, as a basis for stakeholder engagements.</p> <p>Dr. Kaye asked if we recently approved a set of draft recommendations/prioritizations for the HIE going forward. Allan Hackney clarified that we have a statutory obligation to have a statewide HIT plan, the HIE is a piece of this, but the plan that Vatsala describes is much broader around security/data standards and potential uses of data beyond the HIE.</p> <p>Pat Checko asked if there would also be stakeholder engagement conducted with the larger local public health community regarding HIE potentials. Vatsala confirmed that local public health will be included in stakeholder outreach and will update the materials to explicitly call this out.</p> <p>Allan thanked Vatsala and Don Ross and looks forward for future next steps.</p>			
6.	Electronic Case Reporting Discussion	Nancy L Barrett, MS, MPH Infectious Disease Informatics Lead Gary V Archambault, MS, CT Tracking Lead Mike Banfield, MPH, Director of Regional Initiatives, CRISP	1:45 PM
<p>Allan Hackney introduced Nancy Barrett and Gary Archambault from the Department of Public Health and Mike Banfield from CRISP to lead the discussion on electronic case reporting.</p> <p>Nancy Barrett and Gary Archambault presented the DPH section on electronic case reporting. Please refer to their presentation here: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OHS/Health-IT-Advisory-Council/Presentations/OHS_HITAC_Meeting-Presentation_111920-final.pdf#page=13.</p>			

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Pat Checko commented “bravo” and stated this is the reason the Design Group and the HITAC had identified public health reporting among the top five priorities.

Dr. Alan Kaye thanked Nancy for the presentation. He commented while this is encouraging, it is also disappointing as this is an extremely important and the best explanation, he has heard with respect to COVID-19 as to why we need an HIE.

Dr. Kaye raised his concern with stakeholder dedication to getting this done and fulfilling the intent of legislation. Dr. Kaye sees this as a tremendous use case for the HIE but notes it will require a more comprehensive capability of the HIE such as including real time lab results, imaging and supporting data that can facilitate the state’s response to Covid-19.

Lisa Stump questioned if this presentation meant to suggest that this be a use case for the HIE, and if so, what are the advisors being asked to endorse?

Allan Hackney clarified that endorsement is not asked of the advisors at this meeting, but that this discussion is meant to be informational and raise awareness of the possible value added here by collaborating with DPH and the HIE. Allan commented he personally sees this as a tremendous opportunity for the HIE to collaborate with DPH to make data available through the engines and mechanisms of the HIE.

Tekisha Everette agreed this was a helpful presentation and concurs with the comments made on the utility of having an HIE during the Covid-19 pandemic. Tekisha commented that CT is slightly behind as a state as to how data is collected and used. She called out the importance for the advisors to keep in mind that even with an HIE, something has to be done with moving data. She suggested it would be a useful opportunity for the CT Hospital Association to engage with DPH to elevate this discussion with the hospitals in our state.

Mark Raymond shared his appreciation for all the work DPH is doing, having been dealt an incredibly difficult hand and responding admirably. Mark commented that there are hundreds of opportunities to make existing and future processes better. The strength of what we do and recommend is going to be around prioritizing what we do, and by focusing on value is where our success lies.

Lisa Stump agreed with Mark and added that Yale New Haven Health (Yale NHH) is a large hospital and health system. The willingness for Yale NHH to partner with this effort is there, they need to have a sense of priority while they are still dealing with the uptick in cases with the ongoing pandemic, and there has been a lot of work in terms of platform created in Connie. This is one of the very important use cases that we should continue to consider.

Dr. Alan Kaye agrees with Mark that we have a lot on our plate in terms of use cases and priorities, and the focus should be on the HIE.

Mike Banfield of CRISP led part two of the HIEs and support of public health electronic case reporting discussion. Please refer to Mike’s presentation here: <https://portal.ct.gov/>

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/media/OHS/Health-IT-Advisory-Council/Presentations/OHS_HITAC_Meeting-Presentation_111920-final.pdf#page=30.

Lisa Stump clarified from Dr. Kaye’s previous comments that the ability to share information from the hospitals is not a technical barrier due to EPIC as an EMR, it is one of the most interoperable systems on the planet. The need for information to be shared with DPH is recognized and supported. Lisa remarked that clarifying and defining what information is needed to allow the information to be shared reliably, securely, and timely to meet the needs the constituents in the state.

Nancy Barrett commented that DPH reached out to the regional EPIC group and also directly to hospitals that use EPIC systems to try to get the electronic case reporting project running, but no one has taken this up on yet.

Dr. Kaye thanked Lisa for clear intent for Yale New Haven Health to get this done. He added EPIC is potentially an interoperable system, but a lot of decisions are left up to individual customer. Dr. Kaye advises that the discussions should be transparent, and people should know what the obstructions are.

Lisa added we are also in the context of the 21st Century Cures Act and there is a clear understanding agreement. Individual organizations will decide based upon criteria important to organization and patients they serve, and that sharing the information with DPH is not an issue.

8. Announcements and General Discussion

Allan Hackney, Council Members

2:00 PM

Allan Hackney remarked that this is the 44th HITAC meeting he has co-chaired and announced that this will be his last meeting. Allan shared that when he started on January 17, 2017 with former Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, he committed that he would see through the project of establishing a health information exchange started in CT. Allan reflected on the landscape today, noting that the HIE has sufficient federal funding for the next fiscal year, partners lined up at CRISP and UConn AIMS both providing valuable services, five organizations legally connected and two right behind, an energized Operations Advisory Committee in place, a fabulous board and now Jenn Searls as our Executive Director. Allan said the selection and appointment of the Board Executive Director was the last piece to fall into place before he felt the contributions that he could make for bringing forward the HIE had come to an end. Allan regrettably shared that on Thursday, December 3 will be his last day in state service.

Allan shared his reflections on the nearly four year journey it took to get us to where we are, and is reminded of the old saying, “it takes a village to get things done, but instead I have learned it takes a state to get things done.” Allan asked the advisors to indulge him as he has been riding on the shoulders of tremendous people. Allan shared his appreciation and acknowledged their value and contributions by thanking the following:

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- The Health IT Advisory Council. Allan was particularly thankful to his co-Chair, Dr. Joe Quaranta, and also noted four members who served on multiple HIT boards and committees: Patrick Charmel, Dr. Patricia Checko, Lisa Stump, and Mark Raymond.
- The All-Payer Claims Advisory Group: Allan particularly noted that Dr. Bob Scalettar, Jim Iacobellis, Dr. Rob Aseltine, Victor Villagra and Josh Wojcik had served continuously since 2013.
- The Medication Reconciliation and Polypharmacy Committee, ably led by Nitu Kashyap and Sean Jeffery.
- Connie Board: John Vittner, who also serves on two committees, Dr. Allen Davis, Commissioner Diedre Gifford and Jill Hummel
- Operations Advisory Committee: In particular, Glynn Stanton whose personal initiative has advanced the HIE efforts substantially.
- Connie Staff: Dr. Michelle Puhlick, a guiding force for advancing Connie, and Michael Matthews
- Partnerships from Mike Banfield and team at CRISP, Bill Roberts and team at Shipman and Goodwin, Nate Steed at Warner Norcross and Karen Schuler at Marcum
- OHS HIT Staff: Sean Fogarty, Adrian Texidor, Tina Kumar, Joseph Rus, Chris Wyvill
- OHS Support staff: Demian Fontanella, Christine Nguyen-Matos, Lorraine Young, Deanna Chaparro, Shiu-Yu Schiller,
- UConn Aims: Alan Fontes and his extended team
- UConn Health: Dr. Tom Agresta and his extended team
- CedarBridge Group: Carol Robinson and her extended team
- Velatura: Tim Fletcher. Rick Wilkening and their extended
- Health Equity Solutions: Tekisha Everette, Dashni Sathasivam, Mark Abraham and Dr. Karen Wang
- OnPoint: Jim Harrison and his extended team
- CT Health Foundation: Tiffany Donelson and Pat Baker
- Federal Level: Tom Novack, our national interoperability leader, and Alberta Pratt-Sensie, our CMS officer
- The Department of Social Services: Joe Stanford, Mark Heuschkel, Sandi Ouellette, Andrea Schroeter, Kate McEvoy and Mike Gilbert.
- The Office of Policy and Management: Anne Foley, Judy Dowd, Claire Coleman, Gareth Bye, Jim Hadfield and Scott Gaul.
- The Department of Consumer Protection: Rod Marriott and team.
- Former LG Nancy Wyman's staff: Mark Schaefer, Juliet Manalan and Bruce Adams.

Allan continued to thank Vicki Veltri, "who has been a partner and supplied guidance and helped me navigate through the government process." He praised former LG Nancy Wyman, "who had the courage to take on a financial services and insurance guy who didn't know the first thing about government to take this problem on."

Allan apologized if he had missed anyone, but that there have been so many people to acknowledge. Allan concluded by saying: "my message to all is to stay focused on execution, Connie will come online here and will make a big difference. We have a lot we can do with our APCD; it is vibrant, and we can

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	<p>use that to our advantage. There are a number of opportunities to embark on such as the Statewide Health IT Plan, the Cost Growth Benchmark, the Affordability Standard which can all be advanced. Personally, my wife and I will be relocated to Philadelphia to be closer to family. It has been a privilege to work with all of you and I wish you the best. I am going to miss not working on an important set of goals.”</p> <p>Vicki Veltri added, “Allan came in here when he didn’t have to be here. Nancy Wyman asked him to come onboard to take on this humongous initiative. We all spend a lot of time in our day jobs fulfilling our duties that conflict, but at the end of the day we are all human beings to do our jobs at the best of our ability. Allan came in the door with an idea to give back to the state, and he has done that every day in his job as the HITO in CT. When you find people like who perform like he has, your salute that person and think of how much they have given. As Executive Director of OHS, and as a friend we are going to miss him very deeply. Thank you, Allan, for all you’ve done for us.”</p> <p>The advisors continued to thank Allan for his service to the State of CT, he will be missed.</p>		
9.	Wrap up and Meeting Adjournment	Allan Hackney	3:00 PM
	<p>Allan Hackney asked for a motion to adjourn. Vanessa Hinton made a motion. Pat Checko seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm.</p>		

Upcoming Meeting Dates: December 17, 2020

Meeting information is located at: <https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/HIT-Work-Groups/Health-IT-Advisory-Council>