

Information Technology Capital Investment Program
Project Status Report

To: Information Technology Strategy and Investment Committee
John Vittner, Office of Policy and Management

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Agency: Office of Health Strategy

Project: Health Information Exchange

Project Manager: Christine Nguyen-Matos

Reporting Period: Project Inception through 06/30/2021

Total Funds Requested: \$7,559,960

Total Funds Allotted to Agency: \$3,227,281

Accumulative Total Capital Fund Expenditures to Date: \$1,564,872

Brief Project Description/Summary:

08/03/2021

The Office of Health Strategy is working to establish a statewide health information exchange (HIE). The goals of the HIE (Health Information Alliance/Connie) have been established in consultation with the HIT Advisory Council and include 1) creating and managing the identity of patients and caregivers, 2) creating a trust framework that facilitates the exchange of health data, 3) enabling use cases that provide specific value to the health ecosystem and 4) enabling analytics to drive better health outcomes, lower costs, reductions in the burden of government and improved population health.

Summary of Progress Achieved to Date:

8/03/2021

During 2020: (a) OHS, the HITO, DSS, and OPM developed a milestones-based funding track for HIA to access CMS HITECH and state bond funding for Connie development, implementation, and operations; (b) the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP), a nonprofit that functions as Maryland's state-designated HIE as well as the infrastructure for HIEs in the District of Columbia and West Virginia, was procured as Connie's health information exchange vendor; (c) the HIA board conducted a national search for and hired its first Executive Director, Jenn Searls; (d) eighteen new organizations signed data agreements to participate in Connie data exchange; (e) initial priority use cases to get data flowing in the exchange are empanelment, i.e., the assignment of patients to providers, and admits, discharges, transfers (ADTs); (f) HIA has begun design of a consent management portal accessible via Connie's website for consumers to opt-out of data exchange; (g) initial technical onboarding of Yale New Haven Health and ProHealth Physicians participants has begun; (h) legal onboarding continues with the Connecticut State Medical Society's CTHealthLink HIE participants to Connie; (i) conversations continued with the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) on how to collaborate and share the value of statewide HIE; and (j) Connie successfully passed a security assessment conducted by one of the largest health systems in Connecticut.

Given the progress on HIA operations, it is anticipated that Connie will commence operations and the required notice will be posted by the OHS Executive Director to the OHS website during the first part of 2021. At this point, healthcare entities will be on notice to begin the process of connecting to and participating in the HIE within one year (for hospitals and clinical laboratories) and within two years for healthcare providers.

The state's HITO chairs HIA's multi-stakeholder board. (See Appendix E) Allan Hackney, the state's HITO, resigned from his position December 2020 and Mark Raymond, the state's CIO and HIA Board Member, is currently Acting Board Chair. During 2020, the board met monthly with standing agenda items including Board Chair report, board committee reports, and operations reports.

Issues and Risks:

08/03/2021

This current work is being supported through the HITECH Act which provides 90/10 federal funds. This program runs out Sep 30, 2021.

After this HITECH program runs out, sustainability planning is under way that includes the transition to Medication Management Information Services (MMIS) funding on 10/1/21. This is a new funding methodology that all states and DSS, OHS, and Connie staff are navigating. New funding takes place on October 1, 2021. OHS will update with new federal reimbursement and match percentage once finalized and formalized with CMS.

Challenges exist due to the makeup of the Connecticut agencies involved in the HIE project. There is an increased amount of complexity because funds need to flow from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to the Department of Social Services (DSS) to OHS to Connie that requires more time to negotiate than might otherwise be the case.

Next Steps & Project Milestones:

08/03/2021

In considering next steps and project milestones we can update the following: The HIA Board of Directors has set the following target goals for the organization for calendar year 2021: (1) 50% of hospitals, labs, and physicians connecting to Connie and sending clinical data, (2) the development and approval of a sustainability plan, (3) approval and implementation of three initial use cases and two additional use cases in the demonstration phase, (4) a fully populated board of directors, and (5) full staffing to plan.

Percentage driven, Pool driven, and SUPPORT Act milestones and success criteria are included in the OHS Connie contract and reflected in the OHS DSS MOA that ties the release of funds to specific deliverables as planned in the IAPDU. OHS continues to monitor Connie's progress with respect to achieving milestones and success criteria.