OHS
CONNECTICUT
Office *of* Health Strategy

Health Information Technology Advisory Council
DRAFT Meeting Minutes | August 17, 2023

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
August 17, 2023	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Virtual - Zoom Meeting Recording

Attendance: HITAC Members					
Joseph Quaranta (Co-Chair)	R	Josh Scalora, DDS	R	Dr. Alan Kaye	R
Sumit Sajnani, OHS HITO (Co-Chair)	R	Josh Wojcik, OSC (Sandra Czunas) (Joined 2:03pm)	R	Dina Berlyn	R
Gui Woolston, DSS	X	Ted Doolittle, OHA	R	Cassandra Murphy	R
Elizabeth Taylor, DMHAS	R	David Fusco	X	Dr. Susan Israel	R
Nicole Taylor, MD, DCF	X	Nicolangelo Scibelli	X	Mark Gildea	X
Sharonda Carlos, DOC	X	Dr. Patricia Checko	R	Rebecca McLear, AHCT	X
Jody Terranova, DPH	R	Lisa Stump	X	Dr. Michael Crain	R
Mark Raymond, CIO	R	Patrick Charmel	X		

Attendance: Supporting Leadership					
Amy Tibor, OHS	R	Michelle Puhlick, Connie	R	Britteny Matero, Innsena	R
Vasi Gournaris, OHS	R	Tiffany York, Connie	R	Rachel Oziel, CommunicateHealth (CH)	R
Jenn Searls, Connie	R				

In accordance with FOIA statutes re: meetings held by solely by electronic-means: R=attended remotely, IP=attended in person, X=did not attend

Topic	Presenter	Time
1) Welcome and Call to Order	**Dr. Joseph Quaranta**	**1:04 PM**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the HITAC was held virtually on Thursday, August 17, 2023. Dr. Quaranta welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Roll call was tabled to later in the meeting.

Topic	Presenter	Time
2) Public Comment	**Members of the Public**	**1:05 PM**

A public comment was made by Supriyo B. Chatterjee. The public comment can be heard beginning at 1:20 here: ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/OHS_HITAC_Meeting_Recording_08172023.mp4

Topic	Presenter	Time
3) Council Action: Approval of Minutes: June 15, 2023	**Dr. Joseph Quaranta**	**1:07 PM**

Review and approval of minutes was postponed to later in the meeting.

Topic	Presenter	Time
4) Connie Update	**Jenn Searls, Connie**	**1:08 PM**

Jenn Searls presented an update on Connie activities, key highlights included:

- Onboarding progress:
  - outreach continues to provider organizations regarding the requirement to connect with Connie
  - 28 new PhysicianOne urgent care sites onboarded
  - 91 new provider orgs in active integration
  - New Image Share locations
  - Connie continues to build EMR hubs
- An excerpt from an article on Connie's impact on care coordination by a healthcare provider
- A general activity update, including number of opt-outs, user activity, and Connie alerts. Jenn noted that a jump in the number of queries and unique users was related to the rollout of the InContext app by YNHH
- An overview of new system features available in Connie
- Other updates:
  - Behavioral health forums continue and upcoming meetings will include OHS
  - eReferral tool is now accessible within InContext app
  - Connie will parse immunization data from CCDs for simple display for providers

○ Patient access work continues; Sept 30th is the target date for a third-party app. Work also continues around enabling an electronic PDF for those who may not want to use the app.

The floor was opened for questions. Members inquired about several topics, including image share, and immunization registry.

At this time, Dr. Quaranta requested a roll call be conducted. It was determined a quorum was present. **(Vote)** Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to approve the June 15, 2023, minutes. A motion was made (Raymond) and seconded (Checko/Doolittle). There was no discussion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

5) Connie Marketing and Communications Update	Representatives of Connie, CommunicateHealth & Innsena	1:25 PM

Michelle Puhlick provided an overview of the agenda topic and presenters. Michelle introduced Tiffany York who presented on Connie's communications goals and the work that has been supporting these goals, key highlights from Tiffany's presentation included:

- An overview of the following 2022-2023 goals:
    1. Create awareness around Connie
    2. Get licensed healthcare organizations to be in compliance with the mandate by 2023
    3. Get participating organizations to use the HIE and realize its value
    4. Prepare for direct patient communications (in the planning phase)
- An overview of 2024-2025 goals:
    1. Awareness & education (continue to grow awareness and understanding, and foster trust in Connie)
    2. Continue to connect providers through continued outreach
    3. Sustainable adoption: continue assisting current participating organizations with effective use of the HIE and realizing its value
    4. Consumer outreach: launch direct patient communications

Tiffany introduced Rachel Oziel of CommunicateHealth (CH) to present a consumer outreach and engagement update. Key highlights from Rachel's presentation included a background overview of the project and key activities including an e-scan, development of a communication strategy, research and message testing. CH is also working with Connie on developing a charter for a Patient and Family Advisory Committee. Rachel provided a communications strategy update and an overview of next steps.

Rachel introduced Britteny Matero of Insenna to present a public relations update. Key highlights from Britteny's presentation included an overview of the PR objectives for Connie in Q3 and Q4 including: 1) increasing education and awareness, 2) expanding Connie's influence, and 3) establishing social proof. Rachel described the approach which includes cross-vertical impact storytelling. The approach would include using press releases, advocacy, storytelling, industry validation, and impact reporting to share stories broadly across the healthcare ecosystem. Rachel presented a phased approach to achieving the objectives, including building a PR foundation and ensuring PR sustainability.

The floor was opened for questions. Sumit commented that the empowerment of consumers was a central pillar, in addition to developing and coming up with better outcomes, of the statute. He further commented that a lot of this work is productive in making sure that CT consumers are central to all of the work that Connie is doing. Sumit complimented the team for their efforts and all the work that is being done.

The full presentation can be found here: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OHS/Health-IT-Advisory-Council/Agendas/2021-2023-Meetings/8-17-23/OHS-HITAC-Presentation-08172023.pdf

6) HIE Regulations Update	Sumit Sajnani, HITO	1:50 PM

Sumit presented an update on the status of regulations development for the Health Information Exchange (HIE). The HITAC voted on a charter for a HIE Regulations Advisory Subcommittee in its last meeting. Sumit stated that OHS has been conducting work as preparation to get the subcommittee started. He thanked those members who have volunteered to participate and welcomed additional members.

Sumit stated that OHS is going through a contracting process to secure outside council with expertise in state and federal privacy laws to assist with regulations development. The person would conduct research, provide guidance to OHS and the subcommittee, and draft regulations. There is no timeframe just yet for when the attorney will begin, however, a person has been identified.

Sumit stated that OHS also continues to engage with providers, provider organizations, and associations. He noted that providers have asked OHS to tell them very clearly, in writing, what they need to do to be in compliance with the mandate. In response to this and while regulations are in development, OHS is expanding the FAQs on the OHS website, and providing greater detail and clarification on the process of connecting and participating. The FAQs will be published on a rolling basis. The work is ongoing and

all of this will feed into the broader discussions on the regs. Sumit announced that once OHS has certain drafts prepared, availability of subcommittee members will be assessed and a meeting cadence developed.

7) **Legislative Update**	**Cindy Dubuque-Gallo, OHS**	**1:57 PM**

Cindy Dubuque-Gallo presented an annual legislative update which included an overview of the following bills within PA 23-171; each of the bills passed during the 2023 session:
- Drug Discount Card Program;
- Drug Patent Notification;
- Pharmaceutical Marketing Firm Sales Representative Registration;
- Pharmacy Benefit Manager Study;
- Reporting Drugs with Substantial Cost to the State;
- Facility Fees;
- Certificate of Need;
- 340B Reporting and Study;
- Medicaid and Medicare Advantage Studies;
- Healthcare Competition and Transparency;
- Tiering Selection Transparency; and
- Electronic Notification to Insureds;
- Terminating Healthcare Contracts; and
- Maternal health.

Cindy also provided an overview of impacts to OHS within the budget implementer (PA 23-204).

Sumit provided general context for the presentation.

8) **Announcements & General Discussion**	**Dr. Joseph Quaranta**	**2:22 PM**

Sumit announced that the IAPD and OAPD were successfully submitted to CMS and now awaits feedback.

9) **Council Action: Wrap Up and Meeting Adjournment**	**Dr. Joseph Quaranta**	**2:24 PM**

(Vote) Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made (Raymond). The meeting adjourned at 2:24 PM.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:
September 21, 2023
October 19, 2023
November 16, 2023

All meeting information and materials are published on the OHS website:
https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/HIT-Work-Groups/Health-IT- Advisory-Council

Full August 2023 meeting presentation:
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OHS/Health-IT-Advisory-Council/Agendas/2021-2023-Meetings/8-17-23/OHS-HITAC-Presentation-08172023.pdf

Zoom Meeting Recording
ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/OHS_HITAC_Meeting_Recording_08172023.mp4