



OHS CONNECTICUT
Office of Health Strategy
Health Information Technology Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes | October 19, 2023

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
October 19, 2023	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Zoom Meeting Recording

Attendance: HITAC Members					
Joseph Quaranta (Co-Chair)	R	Josh Scalora, DDS	R	Alan Kaye	R
Sumit Sajnani, OHS HITO (Co-Chair)	R	Josh Wojcik, OSC (Sandra Czunas)	R	Dina Berlyn	R
Gui Woolston, DSS (Sandi Oullette)	R	Adam Prizio, OHA	R	Cassandra Murphy	R
Elizabeth Taylor, DMHAS (through 1:45 p.m.)	R	David Fusco	R	Susan Israel	R
Nicole Taylor, MD, DCF	X	Nicolangelo Scibelli	X	Mark Gildea	R
Sharonda Carlos, DOC (Byron Kennedy)	R	Patricia Checko	R	Rebecca McLearn, AHCT	X
Jody Terranova, DPH	R	Lisa Stump (through 2:18 p.m.)	R	Michael Crain	X
Mark Raymond, CIO	R	Patrick Charmel	X		

Supporting Leadership					
Amy Tibor, OHS	R	Jeannina Thompson, OHS	R	Heidi Wilson, Connie	R
Vasi Gournaris, OHS	R	Jenn Searls, Connie	R	Carol Robinson, CedarBridge Group	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	1:02 pm
The regularly scheduled meeting of the HITAC was held virtually on Thursday, October 19, 2023. Dr. Quaranta welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Roll call was conducted and it was determined a quorum was present.		
2) Public Comment	Members of the Public	1:04 pm
There were no public comments made.		
3) Action: Approval of Minutes: August 17, 2023	Dr. Joseph Quaranta	1:06 pm
(Vote) Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to approve August 17, 2023, minutes. A motion was made (Raymond) and seconded (Stump). There was no discussion. Minutes were unanimously approved.		
4) Connie Update	Jenn Searls & Heidi Wilson, Connie	1:08 pm

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

- Progress continues with onboarding, including large ambulatory medical practices, and Connie is now live with getting ADTs and CCDs from several of these practices.
- Development of hubs continues. Hubs are intended to simplify and streamline work enabling all practices within a group to connect into one hub and provide data into Connie. Connie partners with an EMR vendor to develop the hub. Connie is now live with eClinicalWorks, and three more hubs are currently in development.
- The account management team continues assisting organizations with connecting.
- A general update on service and user activity.
- Connie actively conducting outreach and engagement to gather feedback from end users regarding functionality and to inform system enhancements. Jenn provided an overview of upcoming webinars and meetings in which Connie will participate. She invited members to let Connie know of any additional conferences coming up.
- An overview of an article published in EHR Intelligence regarding the benefits of using the Connie system.

Jenn introduced Heidi Wilson to present a on various HIE projects including patient access; key highlights included:

- A status update on the availability of various HIE tools by service type.
- An update on the status of patient access to clinical information through a third-party App. Heidi described multiple phases of patient access. Phase 1 of enabling patient access through a third-party application involves ensuring compliance with the ONC Interoperability rule which requires patients to have access through a third-party application through an API connection, compliance with the state’s mandate, and consumer feedback.
- An overview of current strengths and limitations/barriers to patient access through the third-party app.
- Applications use secure (API) connections through [Carequality](#), a national data exchange framework. Connie is one of the first HIEs to make this patient access option available through Carequality, however there are currently no apps connected to Carequality. The hope is that more states and HIEs will be coming into this environment which will drive more apps to want to be able to connect through Carequality.

Dina Berlyn inquired in the chat room whether it [patient access] is up and running. Heidi clarified that Connie is up and running in Carequality, so when an app connects, Connie will be able to respond. As soon as Connie becomes aware that an app is available, this information will be posted on the Connie website. Prompted by a message in the chat, Heidi announced that the patient portal is separate from the app. Heidi stated that development of a patient portal is part of phase 2 of the patient access workstream. A RFQ for vendors to be able to support the work has been published and Connie is actively working towards making this available by the end of the fiscal year.

Heidi further presented a visual workflow of patient access through an app, and samples of what a patient could see through an app. Each app could display information pulled from a CCD differently.

The floor was opened for questions. Alan Kaye inquired about the definition of a Continuity of Care Document (CCD). Related to the discussion, Lisa Stump shared a document in the chat room regarding CCDs: [Microsoft Word - Fundamentals of Health Information Exchange.docx \(pa.gov\)](#)

The full presentation can be found on the OHS website: ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/HITAC_Meeting_Recording_10-19-2023.mp4

5) Connie Privacy, Security & Confidentiality Committee Update	Mark Raymond, CIO	1:42 pm
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Mark Raymond provided an update on activities of the Connie Privacy, Security & Confidentiality Committee, key highlights included:

- The Privacy, Security & Confidentiality committee is a subgroup of the Connie Board of Directors. Mark is a member of the full board and serves as chairperson of the committee.
- The committee’s work to date has been to review, comment upon, amend, and make recommendations to the board across the collection of Connie policies and practices that govern the three separate but related topics of privacy, security, and confidentiality. The work of the committee is also to review Connie security operations.
- At its September meeting, the Connie board approved the access pattern monitoring policy, the break glass policy, the service level and the operational monitoring of participant transaction patterns policies.
- The committee last met in October and discussed the information-handling practices, especially related to federal requirements and guidelines related to information blocking.
- In upcoming meetings, the committee is expected to review incident response procedures, vendor management, and high trust certification work, the group’s quarterly meeting schedule was approved for 2024. All meetings are recorded and available online.

6) Statewide/Standardized Consent Management – Introductory Landscape	Sumit Sajnani, HITO & Carol Robinson, CedarBridge Group	1:45 pm
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Sumit Sajnani made introductory comments, key highlights included:

- The topic of consent is a broad and multi-faceted subject and it weaves into several of the topics HITAC has been discussing over the last 12-18 months.
- Consent is a central component for health coordination and better delivery of services.
- Consent management was voted as a high priority by HITAC at the beginning of the year during strategic planning and is also a topic of interest for other stakeholders. OHS received extensive public testimony on consent, among other topics such as AI, as part of a public comment period related to the All Payer Claims Database. All testimony was published on the OHS website. Further, a presentation on AI was given to the APCD Advisory Group and will also be presented at HITAC in the future.

- Sumit commented that consent can be confusing for patients, for example, Connie is not the only HIE that connects provider organizations, consequently when people opt out of Connie, they might believe they are opting out of all HIEs when they're not.
- Sumit attended a recent conference where consent was a prevalent topic; he has also met with representatives of Washington State regarding their electronic consent management roadmap. Sumit invited WA to present on the roadmap in a future HITAC meeting. Sumit commented that today's presentation is an introductory landscape only.

Sumit introduced Carol Robinson of CedarBridge Group; key highlights from Carol's presentation included:

- An overview of existing barriers to appropriate data-sharing coordination of care and services, including variables in laws, and rapidly changing laws.
- Overview of some of the current consent practices including "opt (all) in" and "opt (all) out" – both having tradeoffs that can impede quality patient care.
- An overview of the current national and federal landscape regarding consent management:
 - A federal [proposed rule](#) was released in June which talks about certifying EHR systems to be able to tag very sensitive data with more granularity.
 - [SHiFT](#) is an independent health care task force for equitable interoperability founded in 2018.
 - The Senate Health Committee released a RFI asking for feedback on whether there needs to be changes to HIPAA.
 - Pilot programs are being conducted in a handful of states.
 - California statute called on CA HHS Agency to create the Data Exchange Framework.
- An overview of the current state of consent management in certain parts of the nation:
- An overview of a potential consent management model for CT.
- A summary of consent management approaches by WA, CA, and Michigan.

The full presentation may be viewed here: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OHS/Health-IT-Advisory-Council/Agendas/2021-2023-Meetings/10-19-23/OHS-HITAC-Presentation-10192023.pdf>

7) Race, Ethnicity & Language (REL) Implementation Update	Sumit Sajnani, OHS HITO	2:20 pm
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Sumit presented an update on REL implementation, key highlights included:

- OHS was statutorily required to develop and publish standards and make the standards available to all provider organizations and those state agencies impacted by the mandate. Statute also required OHS to develop an implementation plan and periodically review census data and update the REL categories. Sumit indicated that OHS is in compliance with all statutory requirements and provided a timeline of the documentation released by OHS. OHS has also developed an implementation guide which was not statutorily required.
- An update was made with minor corrections to the standards, and presently a version 3.0 of the guide is under development.
- OHS will request feedback from external stakeholders on version 3.0.
- Yale ERIC convenings were held for providers organizations and state agencies with the goal of getting larger providers across the state ready to implement standardized, granular, self-reported REL collection in alignment with PA 21-35.
- In addition to the Yale ERIC convenings, OHS continues to hold state convenings. Learnings and individual needs have been identified from the convenings.
- Overview of the next steps in supporting stakeholders with implementation.

8) Announcements & General Discussion	Dr. Joseph Quaranta	2:40 pm
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Amy thanked those members who were asked to complete the race and gender survey related to the General and Racial Composition of CT State Boards and Commissions. Reports were due to the Secretary of State on October 1 and the deadline was met. The activity did not apply to all members, only those who are not ex officio members.

9) Action: Wrap Up and Meeting Adjournment	Dr. Joseph Quaranta	2:42 pm
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(Vote) Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made (Raymond) and seconded (Kaye). The meeting adjourned at 2:42 PM.

Upcoming Meeting: December 21, 2023

Full October 2023 meeting presentation:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OHS/Health-IT-Advisory-Council/Agendas/2021-2023-Meetings/10-19-23/OHS-HITAC-Presentation-10192023.pdf>

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