OHS CONNECTICUT Office of Health Strategy

Health Information Technology Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
December 16, 2021	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Zoom Meeting Recording

Participant Name and Attendance

Council Members						
Joseph Quaranta (Co-Chair)	R	Ted Doolittle, OHA	R	Lisa Stump	R
Sumit Sajnani, OHS HITO (Co-Chair)	R	Stacy Beck		Patrick Charmel	
Joe Stanford, DSS	R	Robert Rioux	R	Alan Kaye, MD	R
Elizabeth Taylor, DMHAS		David Fusco	R	Dina Berlyn	R
Nicole Taylor, MD, DCF	R	Nicolangelo Scibelli	R	Cassandra Murphy	R
Sharonda Carlos, DOC		Patricia Checko		Ken Ferrucci	
Vanessa Hinton, DPH	R	Kimberly Martone, OHS	R	Pareesa Charmchi Goodwin	R
Dennis C. Mitchell, DDS	R	William Petit, MD	R	Dr. Susan Israel	R
Mark Raymond, CIO	R	Jeanette DeJesus		Mark Gildea	R
Sandra Czunas, OSC	R	Robert Blundo, AHCT	R		
Supporting Leadership						
Jessica Guite, OHS	R	Jeannina Thompson, OHS	R	Jamal Furqan, CedarBridge	R
Amy Tibor, OHS	R	Carol Robinson, CedarBridge	R	Tom Agresta, UConn	
Other Participants						
Jennifer Searls, Connie	R			**R** = Attended Remotely; **IP** = In Person	

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, December 16, 2021, by webinar. Dr. Quaranta welcomed council members and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Amy Tibor administered the roll call. It was determined that a quorum had been established.		
2.	**Public Comment**	**Attendees**	**1:05 PM**
	There was no public comment.		
3.	**Approval of Minutes: November 18, 2021**	**Council Members**	**1:05 PM**
	Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to approve the November 18, 2021 meeting minutes. Mark Raymond made the motion. Joe Stanford seconded. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved.		
4.	**Acceptance of 2022 Schedule of Meetings**	**Council Members**	**1:07PM**
	Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to accept the 2022 Meeting Schedule. Mark Raymond made the motion. Nicolangelo Scibelli seconded. There was no discussion. The 2022 schedule of meetings was accepted.		
5.	**Update: Connie**	**Jenn Searls, Executive Director, Connie**	**1:08 PM**
	Jenn Searls provided an update regarding Connie activities. Highlights of Ms. Searls' update included the following:		

Health Information Technology Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes

	• Steady progress is being made toward onboarding provider organizations, specifically hospital partners and health systems to meet the May 2022 deadline for connectivity.
	• UConn has rolled out an in-context app which allows authorized users to access Connie.
	• Regarding education and outreach, Ms. Searls stated that the Intro to Connie webinar series continues once monthly. Ms. Searls has engaged with the Connecticut Psychological Association Board to introduce Connie to some of its members.
	• Ms. Searls provided a brief update on several projects in-process:
	   ▪ Work on the implementation of Best Possible Medication History (BPMH) continues.
	   ▪ Meetings regarding image exchange have occurred with several organizations, and image exchange with Bristol Hospital has officially kicked off.
	   ▪ The Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) project with DSS has officially kicked off. The DSS HCBS program is a three-year project focused on connecting DSS' providers to Connie and ultimately to develop data driven whole person care focused on individual member outcomes.
	   ▪ A Clinical Advisory Council is being established; Ms. Searls asked members to please contact her, Michelle Puhlick or Dr. Agresta if they know of clinicians that might well-serve on the Council.
	
	Dr. Quaranta thanked Ms. Searls for her update.		

6.	**Acceptance of Medication Reconciliation and Polypharmacy Committee (MRPC) Final Report**	**Council Members**	**1:15 PM**
	Dr. Quaranta presented the MRPC final report agenda item, welcoming comments. Dr. Susan Israel made comments relating to privacy and consent in the MRPC Final Report and the draft 5 Year HIT Plan. Dr. Israel expressed concern that the Best Possible Medication History (BPMH) group and Connie may make decisions about consent and privacy before other groups would have the opportunity to weigh in on these decisions. Dr. Israel further expressed concern regarding how much access insurers will have to patient medical records in Connie, as well as how much control behavioral health patients will have over their records. Dr. Israel stated that she hopes that the HITAC can weigh in on these issues. Dr. Israel further stated that she hopes that Connie will not share data without further consideration of consent, and expressed concerns about how much privacy HIPPA provides, further noting this is in part because the law allows non providers to access records. Dr. Israel stated that she hoped her written comments would be read as they go into greater detail. Dr. Quaranta thanked Dr. Israel for her comments. Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to accept the MRPC Final Report. Lisa Stump made the motion. Dr. Alan Kaye seconded. There was no further discussion. The MRPC final report was accepted.		
7.	**Draft 5-Year Statewide Health IT Plan Report Modifications**	**Sumit Sajnani, OHS HITO & Carol Robinson, CEO, CedarBridge Group**	**1:20 PM**
	Sumit Sajnani and Carol Robinson presented on modifications made to the draft 5 Year Plan. Mr. Sajnani provided a brief clarification regarding the purpose of the 5 Year Plan (the Plan). Mr. Sajnani stated that the Plan is not a Health Information Exchange (HIE) plan and does not diminish anything in the existing statute regarding the terms and achievements of Connie. Mr. Sajnani indicated that the Plan rather bolsters Connie and provides the support needed to fulfill its statutory requirements while also allowing for		

Health Information Technology Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes

additional uses. Mr. Sajnani commented that there is sustained focus in the Plan on privacy and consent, which is also the case for Connie.

Mr. Sajnani announced that feedback on the draft Plan resulted in modifying previous terminology to now read "strategic focus areas"; he described the Plan as a strategic landscape of the direction the State wants to go in over the next five years, looking beyond the HIE. Mr. Sajnani explained that the Plan is also not a project plan but rather a roadmap, and appropriate funding resources and timelines would be developed as specific projects are established.

Mr. Sajnani described the next steps once accepted by the Council. OHS will broadly socialize the Plan, and any material changes made will be shared with the Council at the January meeting before it is submitted to the CT General Assembly (CGA) in February.

Ms. Sajnani introduced Ms. Robinson to present further on modifications to the draft Plan. Ms. Robinson expressed gratitude for the opportunities that CedarBridge has had over the years in its work consulting to the State of Connecticut and recognized the work and progress made by all involved. Ms. Robinson presented a brief overview of the strategic focus areas and modifications made following the November 2021 HITAC meeting and subsequent feedback. Ms. Robinson stated that HITAC members were provided a handout with written responses to all feedback received. Ms. Robinson commented that OHS handles all comments and feedback by members and all stakeholders with thoughtfulness and views this feedback as critically important. Ms. Robinson commented that the Plan is a powerful foundation in place for the State to move forward on important initiatives.

More information on the presentation and all meeting materials can be found on the OHS website: Health IT Advisory Council--Meeting Materials (ct.gov)

8.	**Acceptance of 5-Year Statewide Health IT Plan**	**Council Members**	**1:35**

Dr. Quaranta invited members to comment on the draft 5 Year Statewide Health IT Plan.

Mr. Raymond made a brief comment and expressed thanks for the work that went into developing the Plan by a diverse set of stakeholders with broad representation. In response to a question about privacy and confidentiality by Dr. Petit, Mr. Sajnani emphasized that patient confidentiality, privacy and consent is a critical strategic focus area in the Plan and at the forefront so long as this type of data continues to be shared the focus area needs to be a top priority. Ms. Stump commented regarding simplification and data integration between various entities and the ability to streamline redundant technology infrastructure. Ms. Sajnani commented that building connections between data systems and building efficiencies to reduce redundancies is a very important future strategic area that needs to be looked at. Mr. Raymond commented regarding streamlining technology being a statewide technology goal. There were no further comments.

Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to accept the 5 Year Statewide Health IT Plan. Mr. Scibelli made the motion. Sandra Czunas seconded. The 5 Year Statewide Health IT Plan was accepted.

9.	**Announcements & General Discussion**	**Dr. Joe Quaranta, Council Members**	**1:40 PM**

Dr. Quaranta invited members to make announcements prior.

Health Information Technology Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes

	Mr. Sajnani made a brief announcement regarding a change in process from the previous HITAC meeting in which members were asked to vote to accept the first read of a final report. Mr. Sajnani stated that based on internal legal guidance and to ensure consistency between the various boards run by OHS, it has been decided that such vote will not be required going forward and members will only need to vote to accept a final report. Dr. Quaranta thanked the members for a great year of work across the health information technology landscape and beyond, and wished everyone a happy holiday, thanking them for their hard work. Members thanked Dr. Quaranta for his work chairing the meetings.		
10.	**Wrap up and Meeting Adjournment**	**Dr. Joe Quaranta**	**1:45 PM**
	Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Raymond, and the meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.		

Upcoming Meeting Dates: January 20, 2021

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