OHS CONNECTICUT Office of Health Strategy

Health Information Technology Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes | December 21, 2023

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
December 21, 2023	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Zoom Meeting Recording

Attendance: HITAC Members

Joseph Quaranta (Co-Chair)	R	Josh Scalora, DDS	R	Alan Kaye	X
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	X	Cassandra Murphy	R
Elizabeth Taylor, DMHAS	X	David Fusco	R	Susan Israel	R
Nicole Taylor, MD, DCF	R	Nicolangelo Scibelli	X	Mark Gildea	R
Sharonda Carlos, DOC (Byron Kennedy)	R	Patricia Checko	R	Rebecca McLear, AHCT	X
Gary Archambault, DPH	R	Lisa Stump	X	Michael Crain	R
Mark Raymond, CIO	R	Patrick Charmel	X	Thomas Woodruff	R

Supporting Leadership

Amy Tibor, OHS	R	Jeannina Thompson, OHS	R	Heidi Wilson, Connie	R
Olga Armah, OHS	R	Jenn Searls, Connie	X	Carol Robinson, CedarBridge Group	X

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**	**1:00 pm**
The regularly scheduled HITAC meeting was held virtually on Thursday, December 21, 2023. Dr. Quaranta welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A roll call determined a quorum was present.		
2) Public Comment	**Members of the Public**	**1:03 pm**
There were no public comments made.		
3) New Member Introductions	**Dr. Joseph Quaranta**	**1:05 pm**
Dr. Quaranta introduced and welcomed Dr. Thomas Woodruff and Gary Archambault as new members of the Health Information Technology Advisory Council.		
4) Action: Approval of Minutes: October 19, 2023	**Dr. Joseph Quaranta**	**1:08 pm**
(Vote) Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to approve the October 19, 2023, minutes. The motion was made (Mark Raymond) and seconded (Michael Crain). There was no discussion. Minutes were unanimously approved.		
5) Action: Approval of 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule	**Dr. Joseph Quaranta**	**1:10 pm**
(Vote) Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to approve the 2024 regular meeting schedule. The motion was made by (Josh Scalora) and seconded (Gui Woolston). There was no discussion. The meeting schedule was unanimously approved.		
6) Health Information Exchange Regulations Update	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO**	**1:12 pm**
An update on the status of the development of HIE regulations was consolidated into a broader presentation made by Sumit as described below. The full presentation can be found on the OHS website: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OHS/Health-IT-Advisory-Council/Agendas/2021-2023-Meetings/12-21-23/OHS_HITAC_Meeting_Presentation_12212023.pdf		
7) HITAC Year in Review – Health IT, HIE, and APCD	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO & Olga Armah, OHS**	**1:20 pm**
Sumit Sajnani presented an update on the status of priorities identified in the Statewide Health IT Plan, and HIE and regulatory priorities, highlights included:		

- A refresher on the submission of the statewide Health IT plan and the six focus areas contained within. Approximately 25 activities are contained within the six areas. The last two years, HITAC members completed surveys to help prioritize the activities. Sumit provided a recap of the priorities selected by HITAC to begin in 2022 and 2023 and those that are statutory priorities.
- A detailed status update on the work achieved under each of the major areas of the plan:
  - Support BH providers with adoption of EHR and HIE services;
  - Sustain and increase use of statewide HIE services;
  - Develop HIE regulations;
  - Implement systems to improve health equity and address health-related social needs;
  - Improve service coordination and data sharing across HHS agencies;
  - Protect individual health information privacy; and
  - Support providers and agencies in implementing REL data collection standards
- As in previous years, a HITAC strategic agenda for 2024 will be shared at a future meeting. Rather than members completing a survey to prioritize activities this year, the suggestion is to continue with the priorities that have already been identified instead of adding new priorities for 2024. Progress can be evaluated down the road and perhaps a mid-year survey can be conducted.

The floor was opened for questions. Mark Raymond suggested prioritizing AI as part of the strategic agenda. Mark stated that a symposium was held at Yale recently; the Deputy Dean of Biomedical Informatics presented a consent tracking approach. Mark suggested that as HITAC move down the path of consent, this group be approached to weigh in.

Olga Armah presented a status update on the strategic priorities of the All-Payer Claims Database, highlights included:

- A refresher of the strategic plan presented to HITAC in early 2023. The plan comprised two broad areas: 1) data enhancements and utilization, and 2) operational enhancements. There were 8 proposals total between the two areas and approx. 14 activities.
- A detailed overview of each of the proposals and activities contained within the two areas, and a status on each.
- A status on other APCD strategic activities, including the collection of dental and denied claims data, a new and improved cost estimator tool, and stakeholder engagement campaign to encourage self-insured employers to submit to the APCD.
- An overview of the data types and years available in the APCD.
- An overview of all approved 2023 data extracts or aggregate data releases.
- An overview of 2023 APCD achievements and initiatives.
- An update on federal funding for states to request for APCD improvements.

The floor was opened for questions. Susan Israel inquired about the form in which data is handled, asking whether the data is only seen in de-identified form. She also asked how is it evaluated how easy it would be for anyone receiving the data to be re-identified; and is there any concern that if REL data is mixed together will this make it more easy to identify a person. Olga discussed the types of data permitted to be released.

The full presentation can be found on the OHS website: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OHS/Health-IT-Advisory-Council/Agendas/2021-2023-Meetings/12-21-23/OHS_HITAC_Meeting_Presentation_12212023.pdf

8) **General HITAC Updates**	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO**	**2:05 pm**

Sumit Sajnani presented general HITAC updates, highlights included:

- Annual OHS Health IT Report – the report is currently under development and will be presented to HITAC in January. It is due to the CGA on Feb 1.
- Statewide Health IT Plan – the statute requires a periodic update. No material changes are anticipated to be made in 2024. As we progress through 2024, other items can be evaluated for inclusion in the plan, such as AI.
- Advanced Planning Documents – the APD is a document submitted to CMS annually to secure funding for Connie. This is a multi-step process; this year the document will be brought earlier to HITAC for review.

The full presentation may be viewed here: ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/OHS_HITAC_Meeting_Recording_12212023.mp4

9) **Announcements and General Discussion**	**Dr. Joseph Quaranta**	**2:10 pm**

Dr. Quaranta thanked Sumit and Olga for their presentations. Sumit thanked the members for all of their engagement throughout the year. Dr. Quaranta thanked members for their support and guidance and OHS staff for work completed throughout the year.

10) Wrap Up and Meeting Adjournment	**Dr. Joseph Quaranta**	**2:12 pm**
The meeting adjourned at 2:12 PM.		

Upcoming Meeting: January 18, 2024

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

Full December 2023 meeting presentation:
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OHS/Health-IT-Advisory-Council/Agendas/2021-2023-Meetings/12-21-23/OHS_HITAC_Meeting_Presentation_12212023.pdf

Zoom Meeting Recording
ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/OHS_HITAC_Meeting_Recording_12212023.mp4