

# Health IT Advisory Council

December 21, 2023



# December 2023 HITAC Meeting

## Agenda

- (1) Welcome & Call to Order
- (2) Public Comment
- (3) New Member Introductions
- (4) **Vote**: Approval of Minutes: October 19, 2023
- (5) **Vote**: Approval of 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule
- (6) Health Information Exchange Regulations Update
- (7) HITAC Year in Review
- (8) Other HITAC Updates
- (9) Announcements and General Discussion
- (10) **Vote**: Wrap Up & Meeting Adjournment

# Welcome and Call to Order

# Public Comment

(2 minutes per commenter)

# New Member Introductions

# Approval of Meeting Minutes: October 19, 2023

# **Review and Approve 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule**

# 2024 HITAC Schedule

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Zoom



Meetings are held solely by means of electronic equipment (remotely) in accordance with P.A. 22-3

## Meeting Dates

January 18<sup>th</sup>

February 15<sup>th</sup>

March 21<sup>st</sup>

April 18<sup>th</sup>

May 16<sup>th</sup>

June 20<sup>th</sup>

July 18<sup>th</sup>

August 15<sup>th</sup>

September 19<sup>th</sup>

October 17<sup>th</sup>

November 21<sup>st</sup>

December 19<sup>th</sup>



# Statewide Health IT Plan, HIE and Regulatory Priorities Year In Review 2023

*Sumit Sajnani, HITO*

# Refresher: Statewide Health IT Plan

- ❖ Statewide Health IT Plan - Feb. 2022
- ❖ Six focus areas with approximately 25 activities prioritized over a five-year period (2022-2026)
- ❖ HITAC members have been asked to respond to a survey to assist in setting priorities

<b>Focus Area 1</b>	Sustain and increase use of Statewide HIE services
<b>Focus Area 2</b>	Implement systems to improve health equity and address health-related social needs
<b>Focus Area 3</b>	Improve service coordination and data sharing across state HHS agencies
<b>Focus Area 4</b>	Support behavioral health providers with the adoption of EHR and HIE services
<b>Focus Area 5</b>	Protecting individual's health information privacy
<b>Focus Area 6</b>	Establish electronic data standards to facilitate development of integrated electronic health information systems

# Refresher: HITAC Strategic Priorities

## Portfolio of Strategic Activities

### 2022 Priorities by HITAC

- ❖ Behavioral Health Stakeholder Engagement (FA4) – Info sessions
- ❖ Person-Centered Services Collaborative (FA3) – HHS agencies
- ❖ Connie as a public health data exchange (state agency data exchange) (FA1, FA3)
- ❖ Establish HITAC Standards Advisory Committee\* (FA6)

### 2023 Priorities by HITAC

- ❖ Behavioral Health Stakeholder Engagement (FA4) continued – Listing sessions
- ❖ Explore support for CBOs & social service agencies (FA2)
- ❖ Develop recommendations for consent management protocols (FA5)

### Statutory Priorities

- ❖ HIE Regulations
- ❖ Race, Ethnicity, and Language Implementation Plan, Guidance, Toolkit

# 2023 Health IT/HIE Achievements

Support behavioral health providers with adoption of EHR and HIE services (FA4)

- Listening sessions with behavioral health providers to better understand perspectives around maintaining patient confidentiality of behavioral health treatment
- Developed an educational campaign for behavioral health providers and patients on the benefits and risks of health information exchange.
- Ongoing engaged with large number of associations on challenges and opportunities with the statewide HIE

# 2023 Health IT/HIE Achievements

Sustain and increase use of Statewide HIE services

- Press conference with CGA, OHS, and Connie leadership to share information about the value of sharing data for improved clinical care and care coordination
- Planned and conducted town halls to share information about Statewide HIE services and onboarding requirements

# 2023 Health IT/HIE Progress

## HIE Regulations (FA1)

- Charter approved by the HITAC for the establishment of an HIE Regulations Advisory (RA) Subcommittee (June 2023)
- In preparation developing Regs:
  - Extensive comparative analysis of state mandates and regulations that are currently in place in four states with similar statutory requirements
  - Draft regulatory criteria for hospitals, clinical labs, and provider organizations (with certified EHR systems) capable of connecting to Connie
  - Acquiring consulting services for development of Regs
  - Feedback and engagement with provider organizations and associations
- RA Subcommittee expected to begin meeting in Q2 2024

# 2023 Health IT/HIE Achievements

Implement systems to improve health equity and address health-related social needs (FA2)

- Presented an overview to the HITAC with background on CIE data exchange standards with goal of CIE and HIE interoperability to support whole person care (April 2023)
- Exploring development of roadmap for CIE and HIE interoperability in alignment with national standards including ONC, HL7 and Gravity Project
- Begun analysis for a **Health Equity Dashboard** with a public facing web interface to identify health disparities at the community level and monitor interventions.

# 2023 Health IT/HIE Achievements

Implement systems to improve health equity and address health-related social needs (FA2)

- Electronic closed loop referrals for identified health related social needs. Currently focused on home-based care.
- Scope will be expanding to other social needs.
- Identifying patient encounters with SDOH conditions associated with the encounter



# 2023 Health IT/HIE Achievements

## Improve Service Coordination and Data Sharing Across HHS Agencies (FA3)

- Planning has been done by OHS, in collaboration with OPM, for future activities of a multi-agency working group focused on data exchange, data system interoperability, data-sharing agreements, and consent management
- Planning Greater engagement with components of MyCT pertaining to HHS agencies
- Evaluating CT Enhanced Resource Centers - DSS, DDS, DCF, DOH, DOL, DMHAS, DPH, OEC and CBO's
- Agencies are meeting monthly to share REL implementation experiences

# 2023 Health IT/HIE Achievements

## Protect Individuals' Health Information Privacy (FA5)

- Presented an introductory overview on the status of consent management for data sharing across communities of care (October 2023)
- Engaged with leaders from the Washington State Health Care Authority to present on the statewide Electronic Consent Management (ECM) system (hope to have them present at a HITAC meeting in 2024)

# 2023 Health IT/HIE Achievements

## Protect Individuals' Health Information Privacy (FA5)

### Connie Provider-Mediated Affirmative Consent Functionality

- Follows HIE general designation of the program or person permitted to disclose SUD data and able to view data
- Any provider with a treatment relationship with the patient can:
  - Facilitate consent
  - View the patient's Consent History
- Electronic signatures for patient consent
- Flexible expiration dates for consent registration
- Accounting of Disclosures tracking anyone accessing SUD data

# 2023 Health IT/HIE Achievements

## Supporting Providers and Agencies in Implementing REL Data Collection Standards (FA2, FA6)

- OHS has drafted updates to the Race Ethnicity and Language (REL) Data Standards and Implementation Plan (Version 3.0)
- *Draft Connecticut's Master Implementation Toolkit for REL Data Collection – collecting feedback*
- Yale's Equity Research and Innovation Center (ERIC) is facilitating provider feedback to the draft; State agencies also reviewing
- Provider information sessions to be hosted by OHS in 2024
- State agency leaders are meeting regularly in a REL Implementor Collaborative

# HITAC Strategic Priorities - 2024

## Portfolio of Strategic Activities

### 2022 Priorities by HITAC

- ❖ Behavioral Health Stakeholder Engagement (FA4) – Info sessions
- ❖ Person-Centered Services Collaborative (FA3) – HHS agencies
- ❖ Connie as a public health data exchange (state agency data exchange) (FA1, FA3)
- ❖ Establish HITAC Standards Advisory Committee\* (FA6)

### 2023 Priorities by HITAC

- ❖ Behavioral Health Stakeholder Engagement (FA4) continued – Listing sessions
- ❖ Explore support for CBOs & social service agencies (FA2)
- ❖ Develop recommendations for consent management protocols (FA5)

### Statutory Priorities

- ❖ HIE Regulations
- ❖ Race, Ethnicity, and Language Implementation Plan, Guidance, Toolkit

# All Payer Claims Database & 2023 Strategic Plan Updates

*Olga Armah, OHS*

# APCD Strategic Plan Proposals & Internal Prioritization

## □ Strategic Plan Proposals (8)

### ➤ Two broad areas:

- Data enhancements & utilization (4 proposals) and
- Operational enhancements (4 proposals)








## □ Internal Prioritization Process




### ➤ Development of 3 Rails (Tracks)

### ➤ OHS grouped the proposals based on three factors: resources, processes, and time

- Resources = staffing, knowledge base, technical tools
- Processes = already in place to enable execution, coordination with other states/national efforts, stakeholder engagement (insurers/payors, employers and committees/advisory groups)
- Time horizon






# APCD Updates: 2023 Strategic Plan Update (1 of 2)

2023 Plan	Proposals	Activities	Status
<b>Data Enhancements &amp; Utilization</b>	Produce and publish data visualizations with APCD data <i>(Rail 2)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Select 3 from 11 proposed cost, utilization and performance use cases that align with OHS priorities</li> </ul>	
	Enhance and enrich APCD data <i>(Rail 3)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue ERISA plan Involvement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convene a data quality workgroup to identify how to improve data quality for field of value that support policy development and evaluation of CT healthcare utilization, cost, and quality</li> <li>Convene virtual stakeholder listening sessions with ERISA plan sponsors</li> </ul>	 
	Increase the CT State agencies and external uses of APCD data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Website redesign to make APCD info more accessible for data requests &amp; publish approved uses <i>(Rail 1)</i></li> <li>Create e-marketing campaign to users as such as educational, research, and non-profit organizations, state agencies, and other states <i>(Rail 2)</i></li> <li>Create public use files for research <i>(Rail 1)</i></li> <li>Update healthcare cost estimator tool to support consumer/purchaser decision-making <i>(Rail 1)</i></li> </ul>	   

 = Completed
  = In process
  = Pending






# APCD Updates: 2023 Strategic Plan Update (1 of 2)

2023 Plan	Proposals	Activities	Status
Operational Enhancements	Explore fee structure changes <i>(Rail 2)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OHS to prepare report on pricing models across nation, fee structure, and fee waivers; solicit feedback &amp; consult with HITAC and APCD advisory bodies to create new fee schedule</li> </ul>	
	Refine APCD data request application & process <i>(Rail 1)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OHS to work with APCD Data Release Committee to revamp data release application and develop more efficient request fulfillment workflow</li> </ul>	
	Enact new APCD policies and procedures (P&P) <i>(Rail 1)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of ongoing process improvement update P&amp;Ps to delineate data request process for state agencies versus external (non-state agencies) process</li> <li>Add a data equity assessment for the release requirements</li> <li>Consult with HITAC and APCD advisory bodies</li> </ul>	
	Fill APCD Data Release Committee & Advisory Group vacancies <i>(Rail 1)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fill two vacancies in Advisory Group (DPH, rep of CT State Medical Society)</li> <li>Fill three vacancies in Data Release Committee (Medicaid Director/designee, OHS Exec. Dir./designee, and attorney/healthcare professional (physician, nurse, social worker or psychologist) with experience in healthcare/data privacy or research matters</li> </ul>	 

 = Completed
  = In process
  = Pending

# Other APCD Strategic Activities

Activity	Tasks	Status
<p>New data collection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dental &amp; denied claims</li> <li>Race, Ethnicity &amp; Language in compliance with <u>C.G.S. § 19a-754d</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APCD AG approved updated Data Submission Guide (DSG) for new data collection (April '23 - special meeting)</li> <li>30-day public review of the DSG (May-June '23)</li> <li>New DSG in effect – October 1, 2023</li> <li>Data submission begins with new DSG – Feb '24</li> </ul>	
<p>New improved Cost Estimator – consumer/purchaser decision tool</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgraded tool includes paid amounts &amp; out of pocket payments on 25+ commonly provided inpatient services, outpatient services/procedure, outpatient Rx drugs, durable medical equipment (DME)</li> <li>Release in Jan '24</li> </ul>	
<p>Stakeholder engagement campaign to encourage self-insured employers to submit to CT-APCD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation to CT large employers</li> <li>Creation of opt-in form for employers' use to authorize TPA/insurer to submit</li> </ul>	

# APCD Data Types & Years Available

The APCD comprises **medical, pharmacy, and dental\*** claims information from enrollment and eligibility files

Payer	Claim Type	Years Available
Commercial** - Fully insured claims - State Employees/Retirees & Municipalities in State Partnership Plan - Medicare Advantage (Medical only)	Eligibility/Enrollment Medical claims Pharmacy claims	1/1/2012 – 9/30/2023
Medicaid	Eligibility/Enrollment Medical claims Pharmacy claims	1/1/2015 – 9/30/2023
Medicare***	Eligibility/Enrollment Medical claims Pharmacy claims	1/1/2012- 12/31/2019 1/1/2012 – 12/31/2018

\* Collection to begin in 2024 and will include denied claims for medical, pharmacy and dental services.

\*\*Anthem, Aetna, Cigna East, Cigna West, ConnectiCare, United Healthcare, HealthyCT, Harvard Pilgrim, Optum Health, Oxford, WellCare Health, eviCORE Healthcare, Express Scripts, Caremark  
 Reporting threshold – 3,000 members

\*\*\*Request submitted to ResDac/CMS for 2020 – 2022 data

# 2023 APCD DRC Approved Data Extracts & Aggregate

## External Data Extracts & Aggregate

1. Provider commercial price comparisons – Alleged anti-competitive activities investigation (**subpoena to State**)
2. Planned Parenthood of Southern New England - assessing demand for, utilization, and relative pricing of primary care, reproductive, and sexual health services for internal planning (data release pending)
3. CT hospital community benefit program (legislatively mandated – requests and releases of standard data file pending)
4. Humbi, LLC – Provider practice utilization and cost benchmarking and correlation of patient behavior with acute events and chronic conditions (public DRC review pending)

# 2023 APCD Achievements & Initiatives

## OHS & State Initiated Projects Supported by APCD Data

1. Outpatient Rx drugs transparency mandate
2. Rand 5.0 employer-initiated study
3. Hospital facility fee analysis to support legislative update
4. Healthcare cost and quality benchmarks & primary care target initiative (legislatively mandated, data use strategy, identifying insurers and providers that exceed benchmarks)
5. Health care service pricing and availability for Certificate of Need decision making **(8)**
6. Hospital cost and market impact for proposed hospital consolidation
7. Telehealth expansion and access improvement study (legislatively mandated)
8. Reproductive health services access for commercial population to support legislation
9. Claims volume by product line to support Connie federal funding match analyses **(40% CMS cost share increased to 43%)**
10. Autism services access and relative price comparisons between commercial and Medicaid

# 2023 APCD Achievements & Initiatives

## OHS & State Initiated Projects Supported by APCD Data

11. Cost estimator – improved healthcare consumer/purchaser tool (released Jan '24)
12. Inpatient/Outpatient services price comparison between state employees and other commercial insurance plans
13. APCD Snapshot – updated online dashboard of summary data available e.g., data available, # of people insured from year to year, medical procedures performed, drugs prescribed, costs for health plans and consumers
14. Payment parity and behavioral health coverage by private insurers (legislatively mandated study - in progress, report due 2024)
15. Impact of CT hospital and health care system consolidations (legislatively mandated study, release in '24)
16. Statewide healthcare utilization study and facilities and services plan (legislative mandated report, in progress)
17. CT expenditure on Medicare 10 Rx drugs subject to negotiations

# 2023 APCD Achievements & Initiatives

## OHS & State Initiated Projects Supported by APCD Data

18. Insurance Exchange market plan utilization review
19. Investigating how representative APCD inpatient data is of hospital inpatient discharge data
20. Chronic disease programs review - pending
21. Primary care provider information to support health profession shortage area designations decision making - pending
22. CT healthcare affordability index dashboard update - pending

# CT APCD Federal Funding - Update

- ❖ OHS requested and received in the 2024 budget cycle additional resources to manage CT APCD and support analytics which include:
  - Two additional positions and,
  - Funding for data enhancement and ad hoc analytics - \$50,000
- ❖ Federal funding opportunity - **No new information on the funding**
  - No Surprises Act grant of \$2.5m over three years for states to establish or enhance APCD to support market transparency efforts and research
  - **Includes provisions to make it easier for self-insured employers to voluntarily participate in state APCDs**
  - **still awaiting guidance from Federal Dept. of Labor about grant requirements**



To request APCD data for research, policy development/evaluation, or decision-making related to health care services utilization, cost and quality, visit:

**<https://portal.ct.gov/healthscorect/data-request>**

OR

**<https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/Health-Systems-Planning/FOI/Record-and-Data-Requests>**

# Other HITAC Updates

*Sumit Sajnani, OHS HITO &  
Amy Tibor, OHS*

# Other HITAC Updates

- Annual OHS Health IT Report
  - Under development
  - Presentation overview in January 18 HITAC meeting
  - Due to CGA Feb 1
- Statewide Health IT Plan
  - Statute reads updates made *periodically*; no changes anticipated to be made in 2024
- Advanced Planning Documents

# Announcements & General Discussion

*Dr. Joseph Quaranta & Council Members*

# Wrap Up and Meeting Adjournment

# Contact Information

## OHS Contact for December 2023 HITAC Meeting

Amy Tibor

[Amy.Tibor@ct.gov](mailto:Amy.Tibor@ct.gov)

OHS General Email

[OHS@ct.gov](mailto:OHS@ct.gov)

Health IT Advisory Council Website

<https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/HIT-Work-Groups/Health-IT-Advisory-Council>