Health Information Technology Advisory Council
DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
January 20, 2022	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	R	Patrick Charmel		
Joe Stanford, DSS	R	Robert Rioux		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	R	Pareesa Charmchi Goodwin		R
Vanessa Hinton, DPH	R	Kelly Sinko Steuber, OHS	R	Dr. Susan Israel		R
Dennis C. Mitchell, DDS		William Petit, MD	R	Mark Gildea		R
Mark Raymond, CIO	R	Jeanette DeJesus				
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			

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, January 20, 2022, by webinar. Dr. Quaranta welcomed council members and called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Amy Tibor administered the roll call. It was determined that a quorum had been established.		
2.	**Member Introduction: Kelly Sinko Steuber, Director of Healthcare Innovation, OHS**	**Dr. Joe Quaranta & Kelly Sinko Steuber**	**1:05 PM**
	Dr. Quaranta welcomed Kelly Sinko Steuber as a new member of the Council and Ms. Steuber provided a brief introduction.		
3.	**Public Comment**	**Attendees**	**1:05 PM**
	There was no public comment.		
4.	**Council Action: Approval of Minutes: December 16, 2021**	**Council Members**	**1:05 PM**
	Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to approve the December 16, 2021 meeting minutes. Mark Raymond made the motion. Nicolangelo Scibelli seconded. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved.		
5.	**Connie Update & 2022 Goals**	**Jenn Searls, Executive Director, Connie**	**1:08 PM**

	Jenn Searls provided a presentation update regarding Connie activities. Highlights of Ms. Searls' update included the following:		
	- Ms. Searls announced the addition of a Director of Communications and Director of HIE Services to the Connie team. - The Intro to Connie webinar series continues monthly in addition to a webinar for post-acute care providers, as part of ongoing education and outreach efforts. - Regarding connectivity, Ms. Searls stated that Connie continues to work with its hospital partners regarding data feeds and described several data feeds added during the month of December. - Ms. Searls indicated that technical onboarding and work has begun with a number of Electronic Medical Record (EMR) vendors to set up hubs which are expected to make it easier to establish and maintain data feeds. - The Long-Term Service Supports (LTSS) partnership project with DSS continues as part of DSS' American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) program to connect long term services and supports providers. - HIE admins, who will be managing and adding users onto the Connie portal within participating organizations, are currently being credentialed. - It is anticipated that radiology images from Sharon Hospital feeds will go live by the end of the month, and Bristol Hospital in February. - Work has kicked off on a provider directory service anticipated to go live in the second quarter. Ms. Searls provided a detailed status update regarding Connie's 2021 connection goals and summarized the outcome of additional 2021 goals, including financial, use case, and governance and staffing goals. Dr. Quaranta asked whether lab feeds from hospitals are connected to Connie, and inquired regarding the delay in connecting commercial lab feeds. Ms. Searls clarified that information received from hospitals is considered a hospital feed rather than a lab feed but does include labs. Regarding the delay in connecting mandated commercial lab feeds, Ms. Searls stated that Quest is needing to rework their current system in order to turn on the feed for all Connecticut facilities coming into Connie. Dr. Kaye inquired further regarding the challenges expressed by Quest and described total number of encounters as a good denominator. Ms. Stump recommended asking Quest for greater clarity around the problem. Ms. Searls stated that conversations have been held with Quest. Quest understands the mandate and is prepared to meet it; they first need to rework their system. Ms. Searls provided a brief presentation regarding the 2022 goals recently approved by the Connie Board of Directors. Ms. Searls stated the 2022 goals for Connie describing them as being in three domains: Stakeholder Value, Connectivity, and Operational Excellence. Ms. Searls briefly summarized several of the goals which include developing utilization measures to understand the effectiveness of Connie, connectivity goals, a fee structure, and developing and implementing a consumer facing communication strategy. Dr. Quaranta thanked Ms. Searls for her update.		
6.	<u>**Council Action:**</u> **Review and Discussion of Draft Health Information Technology Annual Report**	**Sumit Sajnani, OHS HITO**	**1:30 PM**
	Sumit Sajnani presented on the Draft Health Information Technology Annual Report. Mr. Sajnani stated that OHS is statutorily required to provide an annual report for calendar year 2021 to the Connecticut General Assembly on or before February 1st. Mr. Sajnani provided a high-level overview of the five predefined sections found within the report and summarized each briefly by each topic area:		

- **Topic Area 1: D*evelopment of the Statewide Health IT Plan.*** Mr. Sajnani noted that both the Statewide Health IT Plan and the HIT Annual Report will be submitted to the CGA on February 1st. The annual report references components of the Health IT Plan.
- **Topic Area 2: *Establishment of Electronic Data Standards.*** Mr. Sajnani stated that a key section of the report addresses the establishment of electronic data standards in accordance with state legislation passed in 2021 regarding the collection of race, ethnicity, and language data (REL). Mr. Sajnani stated that a detailed implementation plan and data standards will be published on the OHS website. OHS is required by statute to review census data on an ongoing basis; the standards will be updated periodically based on the outcome of these reviews. Mr. Sajnani stated that OHS will also be looking for provider feedback regarding implementation which could then be incorporated into future documents.
- **Topic Area 3: *Implementation of the Statewide HIE, Connie.*** Mr. Sajnani stated that the HIT report includes a detailed representation of where Connie is since the organization went live in May of 2021 including its activities and accomplishments.
- **Topic Area 4: *Recommendations for Policy, Regulatory, and Legislative Changes.*** Mr. Sajnani stated that whereas OHS did not send legislative recommendations within the 2022 report, the need for recommendations will be reevaluated and considered over time and sent as needed.
- **Topic Area 5: *Other Initiatives to promote the state's health information technology and exchange goals.*** Mr. Sajnani briefly summarized several additional initiatives undertaken by OHS that are detailed in the HIT report, including activities under the All Payer Claims Database (APCD), projects for consideration for funding through ARPA, and work completed by the Medication Reconciliation and Polypharmacy Committee (MRPC).

Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to accept the 2022 Health Information Technology Annual Report. Dr. Patricia Checko made the motion. Lisa Stump seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

7.	Level Setting Purpose and Role of HITAC	Sumit Sajnani, OHS HITO & Amy Tibor, OHS	1:50 PM

Mr. Sajnani presented on the purpose and role of the HITAC. Highlights from Mr. Sajnani's presentation included:

- A review of the role and purpose of the HITAC from the HITAC charter.
- An overview of how the HITAC versus the Connie Board of Directors are distinguished. Mr. Sajnani described the HITAC as a statutorily sanctioned thinktank providing advice and guidance on statewide health IT including the HIE. Mr. Sajnani noted that whereas Connie remains a priority for the HITAC, there are additional strategic items on the horizon within the statewide health IT plan for 2022 that the HITAC will need to weigh in on and provided several examples.
- Mr. Sajnini described the Connie Board of Directors as having a distinctly different role than that of HITAC, describing the Board as being responsible for the governance and stewardship of the HIE through strategy, oversight, accountability, and advocacy. Mr. Sajnani described the differences in oversight of Connie's work by the Board versus HITAC. Lisa Stump commented regarding "health information exchange (HIE)" as being both a verb and a noun; and described the HITAC as responsible for health information exchange (i.e., the verb meaning of the term "HIE") across the state, with one means of health information exchange being Connie (i.e., the noun meaning of the term "HIE"), noting that exchange of data in the state is broader than Connie and noted the importance of making this distinction.

	Mr. Sajnani invited Amy Tibor to present on additional components of the HITAC charter. Highlights from Ms. Tibor's presentation included: • A brief overview of the 9 articles within the charter. • An overview of Article 7 regarding the operating procedures for HITAC, and a review of the 8 sections within the Article 7. Dr. Quaranta invited members to comment further regarding the purpose of the HITAC. Dr. Quaranta commented regarding the number of interactions that both healthcare providers and patients have with different technology systems having increased exponentially. He commented that the HITAC should start to think about how to incorporate the patient and family experience and how they intersect with the IT system, emphasized the importance of the patient and family experience as an important component of the overall healthcare delivery system.		
8.	**2022 HITAC Strategic Plan**	**Sumit Sajnani, OHS HITO**	**2:15 PM**
	Mr. Sajnani presented on the 2022 HITAC Strategic Plan. Highlights from Mr. Sajnani's presentation included: • A brief overview of the six focus areas identified within the statewide plan. • A detailed overview of the activities associated with each of the focus areas organized by either being a potential priority for 2022 or a consideration for 2022. Mr. Sajnani announced that a brief survey will be circulated to the members requesting their feedback on what to prioritize as part of the 2022 HITAC strategic agenda. Prompted by a question from Dr. Kaye regarding funding for focus area activities, a conversation took place regarding potential funding opportunities through ARPA, future cost analysis needs, and the process for allocation of federal funds. It was agreed that setting up some degree of prioritization is important while keeping in mind that not all activities can be done. Ms. Berlyn commented briefly regarding keeping on track with what benefits the patient.		
9.	**Discussion on Establishing HIE Sustainability Workgroup**	**Sumit Sajnani, OHS HITO**	**2:40 PM**
	Mr. Sajnani presented on the establishment of an HIE Sustainability Workgroup. Highlights from Mr. Sajnani's presentation included: • A brief background regarding previous discussions and presentations to the HITAC regarding the recommendation to establish an HIE Sustainability Workgroup. • An overview of the statutory language regarding the HITOs role in establishing a potential participation fee for those actively participating in the HIE. Mr. Sajnani stated that a sustainability workgroup needs to be prioritized in order to ensure Connie's sustainability in terms of the participation fee which is intended to be a small component of broader sustainability. The workgroup would have a broad agenda and would meet on an ad hoc basis on particular issues. A charter would be set that would allow the group to be in existence over a long period of time with a specific mission in the near term to review the participation fee. Ms. Stump raised a question regarding potential overlap with jurisdiction regarding Connie sustainability by the Connie Board and HITAC, and about the timeframe for communicating any participation fees to providers with consideration given to their various		

	fiscal years. Mr. Sajnani clarified that Connie's Board has primary responsibility for Connie's sustainability and HITAC helps advise the Board. Mr. Sajnani stated that he is specifically interested in discussing the participation fee in the first episode of the workgroup as the fee is not decided by Connie but rather the HITO, statutorily. Mr. Sajnani indicated that the workgroup could make recommendations to the Connie board regarding sustainability in future episodes. The first task of the workgroup is related to the participation fee and a priority would be to develop a timeline that takes into consideration budget planning, should a fee be established. Mr. Sajnani stated that as he interpreted it, the statute does not indicate the fee has to be in FY2023.		
10.	**Announcements & General Discussion**	**Dr. Joe Quaranta, Council Members**	**2:43 PM**
	Dr. Quaranta invited general discussion and any announcements by members. No general discussion or announcement were made.		
11.	<u>**Council Action**</u>**: Wrap Up and Meeting Adjournment**	**Dr. Joe Quaranta, Council Members**	**2:45 PM**
	Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Lisa Stump, and the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.		

Upcoming Meeting Dates: February 17, 2022
All meeting information and materials are published on the OHS website located at:
https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/HIT-Work-Groups/Health-IT- Advisory-Council