CONNECTICUT
Health Strategy

Health Information Technology Advisory Council
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2024 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

Attendance (Members)						
Joseph Quaranta (Co-Chair)	R	Josh Scalora (DDS)	R	Alan Kaye		X
Sumit Sajnani, OHS HITO (Co-Chair)	R	Sandra Czunas (OSC)	R	Dina Berlyn		X
Gui Woolston (DSS)	X	Adam Prizio (OHA)	R	Cassandra Murphy		R
Elizabeth Taylor (DMHAS)	X	David Fusco	R	Susan Israel		R
Nicole Taylor, MD (DCF)	R	Geoffrey Hook	R	Mark Gildea		X
Sharonda Carlos, DOC (Byron Kennedy)	R	Patricia Checko	R	Rebecca McLear, AHCT		X
Gary Archambault (DPH)	X	Lisa Stump	R	Michael Crain		X
Mark Raymond, CIO	R	Patrick Charmel	R	Thomas Woodruff		R
Supporting Leadership						
Amy Tibor, OHS	R	Tyra Peluso, OHS	R	Jenn Searls, Connie		R
Olga Armah, OHS	R	Elson Guo, OHS	R			

In accordance with FOIA statutes re: meetings held solely by electronic-means (remotely): 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, April 18, 2024. Dr. Quaranta welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Roll call was conducted and quorum was present.		
2) **Public Comment**	**Members of the Public**	**1:03 pm**
There were no public comments made.		
3) <u>**Action:**</u> **Approval of Minutes: February 15, 2023**	**Dr. Joseph Quaranta**	**1:04 pm**
(Vote) Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to approve the February 15, 2024, minutes. The motion was made (Raymond) and seconded (Israel). There was no discussion. Minutes were unanimously approved.		
4) **Washington State Health Care Authority Presentation on Consent Management**	**Vishal Chaudhry, Chief Data Officer, WA-HCA**	**1:06 pm**
Sumit shared context for the presentation and introduced Vishal Chaudhry. Key highlights from Vishal's presentation included: • An overview of WA-HCA's vision for Electronic Consent Management (ECM) and ECM solution. • Healthcare data sharing considerations in three buckets: technology, policy, regulatory. Technology is necessary to exchange data – policy and regulatory considerations become just as important because they either enable or constrain the movement of data. • Overview of healthcare data eco-system which places patients and families in the center. • Overview of the architecture for an ECM baseline solution and expanded solution; Vishal shared what the process would look like for a provider searching for a patient. Vishal stated that in WA, the baseline solution is starting with Medicaid clients with SUD providers which is the highest need for the State. The expanded solution will not only expand beyond Medicaid and behavioral health providers but also allow clients to log in and manage their own consent. • Overview of project timeline – going live with baseline solution Q2 2024.		

- The WA ECM solution is federally and state funded.

The floor opened for question. Several members made inquiries. Sumit and Dr. Quaranta thanked Vishal for his time and presentation and wished WA well with the state project.

The full presentation may be viewed here: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/ohs/health-it-advisory-council/agendas/2021-2024-meetings/4-18-24/ohs_hitac_presentation_041824.pdf

5) **Action: Acceptance of Advance Planned Document (APD)**	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO**	**1:45 pm**

Sumit shared a background overview of the annual federal funding request for HIE services. Sumit stated that CMS provides funding as a federal share for health IT particularly around services that benefit Medicaid individuals. This year's cost allocation is 41% (historically it is between 40-43% and this is primarily driven by the adjustment in the Medicaid population of CT). Sumit indicated that typically there have been two separate documents: 1) an IAPD focusing on planning, design, develop and implement, and 2) an OAPD which pertains to operations and maintenance; this year the two documents are combined. Submission is being made to CMS earlier this year, an earlier approval of the application will enable the Connie contract to be done sooner.

Sumit described HITAC's role in approving the application for submission to CMS. Sumit gave an overview of the technical changes made to the APD against last year's submission, and an overview of use cases and supportive functionality within enhanced funding. Sumit provided an overview of FFY 25 and 26 for both the IAPD and OAPD total projects costs, cost allocation, and FFP (the state does a two-year update). Sumit provided a summary of the funding request.

The floor opened for comments and questions. Lisa Stump inquired about participant fees. Sumit stated that participant fees continue to be an open item that at some point needs to be applied, it remains uncertain which year this will be applied. Modeling around this and stakeholder engagement have not occurred yet.

(Vote) Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to accept the annual APD. Motion was made (Stump) and seconded (Raymond). Motion passed unanimously.

6) **Connie Update**	**Jenn Searls, Connie**	**2:10 pm**

Jenn gave a progress update on key Connie activities:

- A focal point over the next couple months will be data quality; an individual has been hired whose primary focus will be data quality. The individual will be introduced at a future HITAC meeting.
- Onboarding highlights:
  - Connie team has been working on targeted outreach and focused trainings and demos for organizations. Specific focus is on outreach to Bristol Hospital area and Nuvance Health.
  - Quarterly webinars have restarted.
  - Number of webinars held where Connie is focused on EMRs that are catering to the pharmacy participating organizations, as well as EMR vendors.
- Jenn shared a testimonial by Dr. Frank Crociata. Jenn also shared that Connie was able to support providers when Epic was down for Trinity Health.
- Jenn gave an update on technical integrations. A goal in Q3 is getting five new EMR hubs up, 30 additional organizations, and beginning pharmacy data integration.
- Whereas electronic test orders and results are no longer in the APD, Connie is working with DPH on this work. Connie will be able to route this data to DPH.
- Patient services update – Connie has completed scope of features in the first iteration of the patient portal and has begun sending test data. The first meeting of PFAC was held March 19 and it was a success.
- Update on the work being done around Best Possible Medication History.
- Connie HITRUST certification – all of Connie's vendors are certified - Connie is now seeking HITRUST certification; an assessment is expected in September towards certification; Jenn shared a certification timeline.

Lisa Stump and Dr. Quaranta commended Jenn and the Connie team.		
7) Connie Privacy, Confidentiality & Security Committee (PCSC) Update	**Mark Raymond, CIO, PCSC Chair**	**2:25 pm**
Mark shared a brief update on PCSC activities. A meeting was held last week and the PCSC continues to focus on the activities associated with becoming HITRUST certified.		
8) HIE Regulations Update	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO**	**2:30 pm**
Sumit shared an update on the development of HIE regulations, key highlights included: • Sumit announced that OHS has executed a contract with Attorney Richard Gold who will assist with research and drafting HIE regulations. Sumit also introduced Antony Casagrande, OHS general counsel, and Tyra Peluso, Lead Planning Analyst, who will also participate in regulations development. • Sumit gave a refresher on the legislation authorizing OHS to adopt policy, procedures, and regulations, and background on how an HIE Regulations Advisory Subcommittee (RAS) was established by HITAC. The role of both the RAS and HITAC in this process would be advisory and not necessarily consenting. • Sumit gave an overview of the RAS meeting cadence and membership construct. OHS is requesting members from within HITAC join the RAS. Meetings will be open to the public. • Sumit shared a workflow between RAS meetings and HITAC meetings. The policies and procedures act as regulations until regulations are approved. Sumit shared sample topics and key dates. • OHS is also planning stakeholder engagement beyond RAS and HITAC, including with provider associations.		
9) Race, Ethnicity & Language (REL) Update	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO**	**2:40 pm**
Sumit shared an update on REL activities. OHS was required to develop standards and an implementation plan, subsequently OHS published V3.0. OMB, the standards agency for maintaining, collecting, and presenting race/ethnicity data published new standards (SPD 15). OHS is now updating its standards to be in alignment with OMB standards. Sumit provided an overview of the published changes.		
10) Announcements and General Discussion	**Dr. Joseph Quaranta**	**2:58 pm**
There were no announcements made.		
11) Wrap Up and Meeting Adjournment	**Dr. Joseph Quaranta**	**3:00 pm**
The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.		

Next Meeting: May 16, 2024

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

Meeting presentation:
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/ohs/health-it-advisory-council/agendas/2021-2024-meetings/4-18-24/ohs_hitac_presentation_041824.pdf