



Health Information Technology Advisory Council Meeting Minutes | April 21, 2022

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
April 21, 2022	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Zoom Meeting Recording

Participant Name and Attendance | Council Members

Joseph Quaranta (Co-Chair)	R	Sandra Czunas, OSC	R	Robert Blundo, AHCT	R
Sumit Sajnani, OHS HITO (Co-Chair)	R	Ted Doolittle, OHA	R	Lisa Stump	R
Joe Stanford, DSS	R	Kelly Sinko Steuber, OHS	R	Patrick Charmel	R
Elizabeth Taylor, DMHAS	X	Robert Rioux	X	Dr. Alan Kaye	X
Nicole Taylor, MD, DCF	R	David Fusco	R	Dina Berlyn	R
Sharonda Carlos, DOC	X	Nicolangelo Scibelli	R	Cassandra Murphy	R
Adelita Orefice, DPH	R	Dr. Patricia Checko	X	Pareesa Charmchi Goodwin	R
Dennis C. Mitchell, DDS	R	Dr. William Petit	X	Dr. Susan Israel	R
Mark Raymond, CIO	R	Jeanette DeJesus	X	Mark Gildea	X

Supporting Leadership & Other Participants

Amy Tibor, OHS	R	Carol Robinson, CedarBridge	R	Jenn Searls, Connie	R
R = Attended Remotely; IP = In Person; X = Did not attend					

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 virtually on Thursday, March 17, 2022. Dr. Quaranta welcomed council members and called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Quorum was reached.		
2.	Public Comment	Attendees	1:02 PM
	No public comments were made.		
3.	<u>Council Action: Approval of Minutes: March 17, 2022 Meeting</u>	Council Members	1:03 PM
	Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2022 meeting. Patrick Charmel made the motion. Mark Raymond seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.		
4.	Connie Update	Jenn Searls, Exec Dir., Connie	1:05 PM
	Key highlights from Ms. Searls' presentation included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A progress update on hospital connectivity. • Connie is now live as a gateway on the eHealth Exchange Hub and is working on going live with its care quality gateway later in the month. • Onboarding status update: 287 live data connections, 618 trusted data sharing agreements, 170+ in the queue. • An overview of data access statistics for the month of March and overview of the main users of the portal. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dashboard will become available on the Connie website which captures a list of partners connected to Connie and the data they are sending. • Provider directory search tool is proceeding. • A brief update on Best Possible Medication History Workgroup activities. <p>Ms. Searls opened the floor for questions and responded to several inquiries.</p> <p>Dr. Quaranta thanked Ms. Searls for her update.</p>		
<p>5.</p>	<p>Connie Security, Privacy and Confidentiality Committee Status</p>	<p>Jenn Searls, Exec Dir., Connie</p>	<p>1:20</p>
	<p>Highlights from Ms. Searls’ presentation on the status of the Connie Privacy, Confidentiality & Security (PC&S) Committee included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the objective and approach to establishing a PC&S Committee under the Connie Board of Directors (Board). • An ad hoc workgroup will be established to develop recommendations to the Board regarding the structure and process for an effective PC&S Committee (Committee). • Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) will be included in the ad hoc group membership. • A brief overview of the group charge and a timeline leading up to when the Committee would convene; Ms. Searls announced that the Committee should begin by Summer. <p>Ms. Searls stated that an update will be given to HITAC in its May meeting. Ms. Searls inquired about ways the HITAC would want to provide input to the Board and Committee. Dr. Israel inquired about resources to the Committee beyond the Board. Ms. Searls stated that the Board will ultimately decide who participates based on recommendations made by the SMEs. Mr. Raymond recommended a periodic report be provided to HITAC; Ms. Searls agreed to the request. Mr. Sajnani commented that engagement with BH providers on concerns around privacy and confidentiality is part of the statewide 5-year health IT strategic plan (5-year Plan) and that a mechanism for information to be shared from HITAC to the Committee would be valuable as the engagement occurs. Ms. Searls invited members to contact her directly to share additional ideas or thoughts.</p> <p>Dr. Quaranta thanked Ms. Searls for her presentation.</p>		
<p>6.</p>	<p>Behavioral Health Education Campaign Initial Roadmap</p>	<p>Carol Robinson, CEO, CedarBridge Group</p>	<p>1:35 PM</p>
	<p>Key highlights from Ms. Robinson’s presentation on the Behavioral Health (BH) Education Campaign Initial Roadmap included an overview of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The top four priorities identified by HITAC to begin in 2022 as part of the 5-Year Plan. • The top priority for 2022: <i>support BH providers in connecting to the HIE.</i> • Findings by the Medicaid and CHIP Policy Advisory Commission (MACPAC) including barriers to BH IT adoption. • Types of licensed BH professionals in Connecticut. • Two recommendations to States made by MACPAC, including guidance on using Medicaid Authorities for EHR adoption and creating voluntary standards for BH IT adoption. • A bipartisan bill aimed to create incentives for mental health providers to adopt electronic records and health IT systems. • Learnings from an environmental scan conducted in 2021 which engagement BH providers. • Goals of the state’s BH initiative. The goals include improving health outcomes through the integration of mental and physical healthcare with more complete information for treatment while honoring the privacy choices of individuals. Ms. Robinson commented that the survey data revealed a strong desire around privacy of data. Ms. Robinson outlined a detailed process on how to achieve the goals through outreach and a community engagement campaign. • Example questions for future town hall discussions. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies and tactics that will be used through engaging, educating, evaluating, executing, and an overview of the high-level campaign workplan. It is anticipated that bi-monthly reports will be provided to HITAC. <p>Dr. Quaranta opened the floor for discussion. Dr. Israel inquired about data segmentation of shared medical records between providers. Ms. Robinson discussed a consent management solution that has been under way for approximately 5 years and described the current state of the work being doing around this topic. Ms. Robinson offered to share a slide presentation with additional information to interested members.</p> <p>Dr. Quaranta thanked Ms. Robinson for her presentation.</p>		
7.	Health Information Exchange (HIE) Sustainability Support Workgroup (SSW) Update	Sumit Sajnani, OHS HITO	2:15 PM
	<p>Mr. Sajnani stated that he has had an evolution in his thought process around the approach on the participation fee. Since the HIE-SSW charter was established in March, Mr. Sajnani has had an opportunity to meet with several stakeholders including participants of the workgroup, legal and policy experts, and others. Since the beginning, Mr. Sajnani had certain core principles around the participation fee to ensure that it is reasonable and applied in a fair and equitable way. In consideration of these core principles and where Connie currently is in terms of its design and development, Mr. Sajnani has decided not to pursue the HIE-SSW at this time and instead to have a conversation with the Connie Board of Directors, the Department of Social Services, and others on reevaluating the strategy. Mr. Sajnani thanked HITAC and the HIE-SSW participants for playing a valuable role in this process and for volunteering their time to this group. Mr. Sajnani stated that he would re-engage HITAC when appropriate. Mr. Raymond accepted moving forward with dissolving the charter if untimely. However, he raised concerns that it may take some time to build consensus on reestablishing the charter/group. Mr. Sajnani stated that as written, the charter includes specific time frames, evaluations and assigned seats and would need to be amended. Dr. Quaranta commented that the group would be reformed in the future when appropriate.</p> <p>Dr. Quaranta asked for a motion regarding the HIE-SSW charter. Mr. Raymond made a motion to dissolve the current HIE-SSW charter. Ms. Charmchi Goodwin seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>		
8.	Announcements & General Discussion	Dr. Joseph Quaranta	2:25 PM
	<p>Dr. Quaranta opened the floor for announcements and general discussion. There were no announcements.</p>		
9.	<u>Council Action</u>: Wrap Up and Meeting Adjournment	Dr. Joseph Quaranta & Members	2:30 PM
	<p>Mr. Sajnani requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Mark Raymond and seconded by Dr. Nicole Taylor. The meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.</p>		

Upcoming Meeting Dates: May 19, 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>