OHS
CONNECTICUT
Office *of* Health Strategy

Health Information Technology Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes | May 18, 2023

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
May 18, 2023	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Zoom Meeting Recording

Members					
Joseph Quaranta (Co-Chair)	R	Josh Scalora, DDS	R	Patrick Charmel	X
Sumit Sajnani, OHS HITO (Co-Chair)	R	Josh Wojcik, OSC (Sandra Czunas)	R	Dr. Alan Kaye	R
Gui Woolston, DSS	X	Ted Doolittle, OHA	R	Dina Berlyn	R
Elizabeth Taylor, DMHAS	R	Kelly Sinko Steuber, OHS	X	Cassandra Murphy	R
Nicole Taylor, MD, DCF	R	David Fusco	R	Dr. Susan Israel	R
Sharonda Carlos, DOC	X	Nicolangelo Scibelli	R	Mark Gildea	R
Jody Terranova, DPH	R	Dr. Patricia Checko	R	Rebecca McLear, AHCT	X
Mark Raymond, CIO	X	Lisa Stump	R	Dr. Michael Crain	R
Supporting Leadership & Other Participants					
Vasi Gournaris, OHS	R	Jeannina Thompson, OHS	R	Amanda Crociata, Connie	R
Olga Armah, OHS	R	Jenn Searls, Connie	R	Kary Nulisch, Connie	R
Amy Tibor, OHS	R	Heidi Wilson, Connie	R		

In accordance with current FOIA statutes re: meetings held by solely by electronic means: R=attended remotely, IP=attended in person

Topic	Responsible Party	Time
Welcome and Call to Order	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO**	**1:04 PM**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the HITAC was held virtually on Thursday, May 18, 2023. Sumit Sajnani welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Upon roll call, it was determined a quorum was present.

Public Comment	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO**	**1:06 PM**

No public comments were made.

Council Action: Approval of Minutes: April 20, 2023	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO**	**1:06 PM**

Mr. Sajnani requested a motion to approve the April 20, 2023, minutes. A motion was made (Quaranta) and seconded (N. Taylor). There was no discussion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

HIE Regulations Initiation	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO, Vasi Gournaris & Alicia Novi, OHS**	**1:08 PM**

Mr. Sajnani commented that OHS was given statutory authority to develop regulations (regs) for the HIE during the previous legislative session. The process and approach so far have included broad stakeholder engagement and reviewing other states' regs. OHS is now seeking greater feedback, throughout the regs development process, from HITAC and external stakeholders.

Mr. Sajnani introduced Vasi Gournaris to present on the initiation of developing HIE regs. Ms. Gournaris introduced herself as a lead planning analyst for OHS. Ms. Gournaris noted that any materials in the presentation that may portray defined ideas for potential policies and regs are drafts that need feedback and may change significantly throughout the process.

Key highlights from Ms. Gournaris' presentation included:
- HITAC advisement is needed: 1) towards the developing policies, procedure and regs for the HIE; 2) to ensure success in meeting the statutory objectives of the HIE; and 3) on principle HIE concepts which will develop additional regulatory concepts for future meetings.

- A list was presented of regulatory concepts/topics under consideration to be developed into regs to help clarify the mandate. Ms. Gournaris highlighted three core concepts where feedback is needed initially: 1) providers, 2) the complete medical record, and 3) the three HIE connection levels.
- An overview of CGS § 17b-59d(e) and 17b-59e(d) which give OHS authority to adopt regs.
- An overview of HITAC's role in the process and proposed mechanisms for HITAC to provide feedback to OHS.

Ms. Gournaris stated that there is a formal process for formulating regs and an internal process; she then introduced Alicia Novi, OHS Staff Attorney, to present on the formal process; key highlights from Ms. Novi's presentation included:

- An overview of the two statutes giving OHS the ability to adopt regs and overview of the formal process. CGS §17b-59d pertains to the state-wide HIE and CGS §17b-59e pertains to EHR systems. Both statutes authorize the OHS executive director to adopt regs and implement policies and procedures.
- OHS may submit regs as policies and procedures while going through the regulation and rule making process. A public hearing must be held 30 days prior to implementing such policies and procedures. The policies and procedures are implemented prior to the regulatory process and remain in effect until the regs taken effect.
- The Uniform Administrative Procedures Act is the law governing procedures for the state administrative agencies to propose and issue regs, and the UAPA provides for judicial review of agency adjudications, and other final decisions in CT. The Legislative Regulation Review Committee (LRRC) reviews and approves regs proposed by state agencies.
- A detailed presentation on the complete formal review process and general timeline.
- An overview of the eRegulations portal, a tool administered by the Secretary of the State.

Ms. Gournaris presented on the internal process for regs development, key highlights included:

- An overview of what is included in the internal process by OHS for formulating regs.
- The main HIE statutes that are being focused on in the process: CGS 17b-59d (State-wide HIE establishment), 17b-59e (definitions and HIE connection and participation), and 17b-59a (definition for HIE data standards).
- An overview and summary of the initial core concepts in which HITAC advisement is needed to move forward in the regulations process.
- Overview of two sections of CT law that regulate *individual* listening and *institutional* licensing.
- A discussion on potential mechanisms for HITACT to provide feedback.

The floor was open for questions. Dr. Kaye commented that an executive summary of what has been done in other states could be helpful. Several members expressed support for the development of a subcommittee.

Mr. Sajnani made closing remarks.

Connie Update	Heidi Wilson, Amanda Crociata & Kary Nulisch, Connie	2:01 PM

Ms. Wilson provided a general update on key Connie activities, highlights included:

- Two behavioral health forums have been held so far and others are scheduled. Some of the themes are focused around data sharing rules and protocols that Connie adheres to, privacy and security practices that Connie implements to keep patient data safe, and questions about legal agreements. The forums have allowed the ability to address some of the questions the groups have had, and to develop a deeper understanding of how to make Connie work better for these types of providers and their patients.
- A general monthly and weekly activity update, including number of opt-outs, user activity, and Connie alerts. Ms. Wilson stated that Connie has achieved a milestone with provider queries.

Ms. Wilson invited Ms. Crociata, Connie Director of Account Management, to present updates on onboarding, key highlights from Ms. Crociata's presentation included:

- A summary of the outreach efforts made by Connie's Account Management team leading up to the connectivity deadline. Outreach was conducted in a variety of ways including by phone, email, through monthly webinars, demos, meetings with various stakeholder groups including state agencies, health systems and ACOs, associations such as the CT State Dental Association, and behavioral associations. Connie also conducted a webinar series marketed to outstanding Year 2 providers.
- An overview of the current outreach status.
- Future focus for the account management team will shift from outreach to onboarding with the goal of increasing portal adoption and utilization, through targeted webinars, demos and user affinity groups based on organization and provider type. Connie will be tracking utilization and developing metrics to track success and will conduct targeted outreach to connected organizations based on the metrics. Connie has hired a Clinical Applications Trainer to assist with this work.
- Connie will be soliciting feedback from organizations and providers and identifying clinical champions.

- Connie will also continue outreach with organizations that have not yet signed the commitment to connect form and those that have not yet begun the process of connecting.

Ms. Crociata introduced Kary Nulisch to present on the post-May 3rd onboarding process and the plan for technical onboarding, key highlights from the presentation included:
- Onboarding continues for those providers already in progress of connecting.
- An overview of the inventory of EHR vendors and progress on building hubs to assist with connection.
- A status on technical onboarding and next steps.
- An overview of potential obstacles related to technical onboarding.

The full presentation update and discussion may be found on the OHS website: Health IT Advisory Council (ct.gov)

APCD Strategic Plan Update	Olga Armah, OHS	2:30 PM

Ms. Armah presented an update on strategic planning for the APCD, key highlights included:
- OHS sought feedback on eight draft strategic proposals from the APCD Advisory Group and Data Release Committee to enhance the APCD. The proposals were categorized into two areas of focus: 1) Data Enhancements and Utilization, and 2) Operational Enhancements. Ms. Armah provided a summary of each of the proposals under the two categories.
- OHS received feedback on six of the eight proposals from the advisory group and DRC; staff are reviewing the feedback.
- Ms. Armah presented on the internal prioritization process which included the development of three tracks based on resource availability. Ms. Armah commented that the proposals needed to be prioritized because OHS is implementing them with existing resources. The internal process included an assessment of resources for each, processes, and time. Each proposal was assigned to one of the three tracks.

Announcements & General Discussion	Sumit Sajnani, HITO	2:40 PM

Mr. Sajnani stated an inquiry was made during a previous HITAC meeting regarding national networks and information available on the Connie website. Mr. Sajnani announced that the information on the Connie website regarding national networks has now been expanded. Ms. Searls commented that the information is in two places on the website, for both patients and providers. Ms. Searls stated that any feedback is welcome.

Council Action: Wrap Up and Meeting Adjournment	Sumit Sajnani, HITO	2:45 PM

Mr. Sajnani requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made (Checko) and seconded (Doolittle). The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

The full presentation and discussions may be accessed here: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OHS/Health-IT-Advisory-Council/Agendas/2021-2023-Meetings/5-18-23/OHS-HITAC-Presentation-05182023.pdf

Upcoming Meeting Date: June 15, 2023

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