



**Health Information Technology Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
June 16, 2022**

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
June 16, 2022	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<a href="#">Zoom Meeting Recording</a>

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	R	Robert Rioux	X	Dr. Alan Kaye	R
Nicole Taylor, MD, DCF	R	David Fusco	R	Dina Berlyn	R
Sharonda Carlos, DOC	X	Nicolangelo Scibelli	X	Cassandra Murphy	R
Adelita Orefice, DPH	X	Dr. Patricia Checko	R	Dr. Susan Israel	R
Dennis C. Mitchell, DDS	X	Dr. William Petit	X	Mark Gildea	X
Mark Raymond, CIO	R	Jeanette DeJesus	X		
Supporting Leadership & Other Participants					
Amy Tibor, OHS	R	Jenn Searls, Connie	R	Carol Robinson, CedarBridge	R
Jacqueline Pellerin, OHS	R	Christopher Whaley, RAND Corporation	R		

R = Attended Remotely; IP = In Person; X = Did not attend

Agenda			
	Topic	Responsible Party	Time
1.	<b>Welcome and Call to Order</b>	<b>Dr. Joseph Quaranta (Co-Chair)</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
	The regularly scheduled meeting of the Health Information Technology Advisory Council was held virtually on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.; Dr. Quaranta announced that several regular orders of business would take place later in the meeting to allow time for a presentation by RAND Corporation.		
2.	<b>RAND Corporation Presentation on Hospital Transparency Report 4.0</b>	<b>Christopher Whaley, RAND Corporation</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
	Christopher Whaley presented on the RAND Corporation Hospital Transparency Report 4.0, key highlights included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Background and purpose of the national study.</li><li>Employers collectively spend over a trillion dollars in healthcare costs. Employer-sponsored healthcare plans cover over half of the country.</li><li>Breakdown of employer-sponsored healthcare and hospital spending as of 2018.</li><li>Family premiums and deductibles have significantly increased over the past decade outpacing wages.</li><li>Purpose of the study was to look at prices for healthcare across the country and add transparency to the market.</li><li>Overview of phases 1-4 of the report. The study is in its fourth phase and data from the Connecticut All Payer Claims Database (APCD) is included in the third and fourth phase.</li></ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed overview of the approach used for the study: 1) obtain medical claims data, 2) price measuring, 3) creation of a public hospital pricing report, and 4) creation of private hospital pricing report for self-funded employers.</li> <li>• Overview of the main findings of the study, including where Connecticut stands, prices by CT hospital system, and prices by inpatient versus outpatient services.</li> <li>• Overview of how employers and policymakers can use price transparency.</li> </ul> <p>The floor was opened for questions. A conversation took place about variations in pricing among hospital systems.</p> <p>At this time the roll call was administered and it was determined that a quorum was present.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<b><u>Public Comment</u></b>	<b>Dr. Joseph Quaranta</b> <b>1:35 PM</b>
	No public comments were made.	
<b>4.</b>	<b><u>Council Action: Approval of Minutes: May 19, 2022 Meeting</u></b>	<b>Dr. Joseph Quaranta</b> <b>1:37 PM</b>
	Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2022 meeting. Mark Raymond made the motion. Kelly Sinko Steuber seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.	
<b>5.</b>	<b><u>Connie Update</u></b>	<b>Jenn Searls, Exec Dir., Connie</b> <b>1:38 PM</b>
	Ms. Searls presented a progress update on Connie activities. Ms. Searls announced that she will send updated slides for the connectivity update of her presentation after the meeting. Key highlights from the presentation included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status update on hospital connectivity and electronic medical record hubs.</li> <li>• Onboarding status update: 3.38M unique patients in MPI, 667 trusted data sharing agreements, approx. 190 in queue.</li> <li>• Overview of May data access statistics.</li> <li>• Weekly launches of Connie by organization.</li> <li>• Status updates on the following initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Patient-Centered Consumer Outreach: request for Quote has been extended to allow more time for questions.</li> <li>◦ Best Possible Medication History: work continues, and launch is anticipated for Summer 2022.</li> <li>◦ Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)</li> <li>◦ Clinical Advisory Committee: planning an education/information session around national networks</li> <li>◦ Privacy, Security &amp; Confidentiality Committee: recommendations are anticipated to go before the Connie Board of Directors in July.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	The floor was opened for comments and questions. Dr. Israel reiterated interest in participating on the Privacy, Security & Confidentiality Committee. Ms. Berlyn inquired about the status of the patient access portal. Ms. Searls stated that a meeting is scheduled with Connie's technology vendor to review technology options and more information will be shared with HITAC at a future meeting.	
<b>6.</b>	<b><u>Legislative Update</u></b>	<b>Sumit Sajnani, OHS HITO</b> <b>1:48 PM</b>
	Mr. Sajnani presented a legislative update. Mr. Sajnani stated that the list is not exhaustive of everything OHS had in its legislative discussions and what passed but rather a partial list of what the Council might be interested in hearing. Mr. Sajnani presented on the following initiatives in which legislation passed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connie Regulatory Authority</li> <li>• DPH Immunization Registry and Interoperability with the HIE</li> <li>• Health Care Cost Growth Benchmark</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Race, Ethnicity and Language ARPA Funding</li><li>• Hospital Community Benefit Program</li><li>• Mental Health and Behavioral Services</li><li>• Personal Data Privacy and Online Monitoring</li></ul>		
7.	<b>Advanced Planning Document Update</b>	<b>Sumit Sajnani, OHS HITO</b>	<b>2:00 PM</b>
Mr. Sajnani presented the Advanced Planning Document (APD) update. Highlights from the presentation included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• APD background and purpose of presentation:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ HITAC has a statutory role to review and provide feedback to the OHS Executive Director or the DSS Commissioner prior to submitting federal funding request regarding the statewide HIE.</li><li>○ The current APD expires on Sept. 30, 2022 (Federal Fiscal Year) and DSS is the submitting agency to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)</li></ul></li><li>• Overview of CT's Network of Networks Approach to HIE</li><li>• Overview of the phased approach to implementing Connie</li><li>• Federal financial participation is broken out into two components:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Operational APD (OAPD):</b> Mr. Sajnani provided an overview of the following: OAPD progress to date; administrative and operations costs; the CMS certified Empanelment and Encounter Alerts Use Case Service (EAS); three use cases in which CMS certification is being sought in FFY23; the costs of Certified EAS functionality; the costs of three use cases in FFY23 and brief description of each</li><li>○ <b>Implementation APD (IAPD):</b> Mr. Sajnani stated that CMS allows 90% federal cost sharing for activities that are in planning and described planned activities: Social Determinants of Health, eConsult, Electronic Case Report (eCR), Quality Measurements, Durable Medical Equipment Order Tracking, Immunizations, Dental Health Records, Advance Healthcare Directives, Provider Mediated Affirmative eConsent, Patient Mediated Affirmative eConsent, Patient Data Access, and Stroke Registry Image Feed. Mr. Sajnani provided a high level overview of the IAPD budget and cost allocations.</li></ul></li></ul>			
The floor was opened for questions. Mr. Charmel inquired about several items presented, including the cost share of the three new use cases, social determinants and community based organizations, and the use of existing repositories.			
8.	<b>Announcements &amp; General Discussion</b>	<b>Dr. Joseph Quaranta</b>	<b>2:35 PM</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Sajnani stated that OHS has received a series of detailed questions over the last few months by a local freelance reporter related to Connie and would like to make the Council aware that OHS has responded to all questions in interview form and writing and has provided many backup documents. Mr. Sajnani further stated that OHS continues to work diligently to respond to all follow up questions. He stated that he does not know when the story may be published or what the key highlights will be. Mr. Sajnani commented that a journey on implementing an HIE is not often a straight path, there are unexpected turns and changes, and he hopes the key achievement in the story is not missed on what the HIE has been able to accomplish and those who participated in its success. Mr. Sajnani commented that OHS would like to make sure what is shared with the reporter is the success of the HIE, what it has been able to accomplish in its full year of existence, and the value that it brings to CT residents and the provider community, and what potential it holds for the future. OHS will continue to provide any and all details possible.</li></ul> <p>Mr. Doolittle commented that he commends the approach OHS is taking and thanked Mr. Sajnani.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Sajnani thanked OHS Executive Director Vicki Veltri for her steadfast commitment to HITAC and her tireless efforts on initiatives in the State of Connecticut related to health equity, health access, looking at the cost curve, the cost growth benchmark bill. Ms. Veltri thanked the Council for their work, the</li></ul>			

	OHS leadership team and all OHS staff for their efforts. Dr. Quaranta thanked Ms. Veltri on behalf of the Council members for her time co-chairing the Council and for her ongoing services and commitment.		
8.	<b><u>Council Action: Wrap Up and Meeting Adjournment</u></b>	<b>Dr. Joseph Quaranta &amp; Members</b>	<b>2:45 PM</b>
	Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Patrick Charmel. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.		

**Upcoming Meeting Dates: July 21, 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>