![Connecticut Health Strategy logo]

Health Information Technology Advisory Council
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2024, | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting Recording

Member Attendance					
Joseph Quaranta (Co-Chair)	R	Josh Scalora (DDS)	X	Alan Kaye	R
Sumit Sajnani, OHS HITO (Co-Chair)	R	Sandra Czunas (OSC)	R	Dina Berlyn	R
		Adam Prizio (OHA)	R	Cassandra Murphy	R
William Halsey (DSS)	X	David Fusco	R	Susan Israel	R
Elizabeth Taylor (DMHAS)	X	Geoffrey Hook	R	Mark Gildea	X
Nicole Taylor, MD (DCF) – 2:00	R	Patricia Checko	R	Rebecca McLear, AHCT	X
Byron Kennedy (DOC)	R	Lisa Stump	R	Michael Crain	X
Gary Archambault (DPH)	R	Patrick Charmel	X	Thomas Woodruff	R
Mark Raymond, CIO	R	Jaime Rodriguez	R	Bert Plant	R
Cara Passaro, OAG	R				
Supporting Leadership & Other Participants					
Amy Tibor, OHS	R	Elson Guo, OHS	R	Paul Brady, OHS	
Tyra Peluso, OHS	R	Brian Briscombe, RAND Corp	R		
In accordance with FOIA statutes re: meetings held by solely by electronic-means (remote) R= remotely, IP= in person, X=did not attend					

Topic	Presenter	Time
1) Welcome and Call to Order	**Dr. Joseph Quaranta**	**1:06 pm**
The regularly scheduled HITAC meeting was held virtually on Thursday, June 20, 2024. Dr. Quaranta welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. Dr. Quaranta announced that HITAC was chosen to host the RAND Corporation presentation on hospital pricing transparency and the invitation was extended to certain state constituents who will be able to participate. The floor will open to those who received the invitation including legislators, HHS commissioners and staff, and OHS councils and committee members.		
2) Public Comment	**Members of the Public**	**1:10 pm**
There were no public comments made.		
3) Membership Update	**Dr. Joseph Quaranta**	**1:12 pm**
Membership update was tabled to during roll call.		
4) Presentation by RAND Corporation on Hospital Pricing Transparency	**Brian Briscombe, RAND Corporation**	**1:15 pm**
Brian Briscombe shared a presentation on the findings of the Round 5 study conducted by RAND Corporation. The study examines employer-sponsored commercial claims data, not Medicare and Medicaid. Employer-sponsored plans cover about half of Americans. The study tries to ascertain which hospitals are higher priced vs lower priced. The data source includes self-funded employers, APCDs, and health plans. Brian shared some of the key findings nationally and for CT. Members and special guests asked a variety of questions. The Round 5 report can be found here: Prices Paid to Hospitals by Private Health Plans: Findings from Round 5 of an Employer-Led Transparency Initiative | RAND and the full HITAC presentation here: HITAC June 2024 Presentation		
5) <u>Action</u>: Approval of Minutes: May 16, 2024	**Dr. Joseph Quaranta**	**2:10 pm**
Roll call was conducted and quorum was present. Amy Tibor welcomed new member, Bill Halsey, as DSS Commissioner's new designee. **(Vote)** Dr. Quaranta requested a motion to approve the May 16, 2024, minutes. The motion was made (S. Israel) and seconded (M. Raymond). Cara Passaro abstained. Minutes were approved.		

6) Health Equity Dashboard Update	Paul Brady, OHS	2:15 pm

Paul Brady presented an update on the development of a Race, Ethnicity & Language (REL) Health Equity Dashboard, key highlights included:

- OHS and DSS received ARPA funds to develop a dashboard to identify and monitor communities that experience racial/ethnic disparities exacerbated by COVID-19. The dashboard is intended as a tool for providers and organizations to identify and meet unmet in the community. It is also intended to support the goals of PA 21-35 now CGS 19a-754d.
- Paul shared examples of existing SDoH and health equity dashboards, including from Lawrence Massachusetts, and Access Health CT.
- A health equity design group includes representatives of OHS, DPH, DMHAS, AHCT, and the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health. The group recently determined to include the top six needs identified by hospitals as identified in the most recent OHS community health benefits report.
- Paul shared several questions for HITAC feedback. HITAC members are invited to share feedback with Paul directly.

Sumit commented that of the 1.15m in ARPA funding, 150k is for the dashboard with the remaining for implementation of new REL standards and the granular REL standards. ARPA funding needs to be committed by the end of 2024.

The floor opened for comments. Lisa Stump commented that gender equity and disparities is an area to include. Alan Kaye inquired about the funding and context for the presentation to HITAC. Adam Prizio suggested disability information be collected as a factor. He shared that the American Community Survey has a checklist of different factors of disability that could be incorporated into this data.

HIE Regulations Update	Tyra Anne Peluso, OHS	2:45 pm

Tyra Anne Peluso shared a presentation update on the development of HIE regulations, key highlights included:

- The HIE Regulations Advisory Subcommittee (RAS) held its first meeting June 13th. Several concepts were discussed: patient health information, complete medical record, healthcare providers and provider waivers and the goals of the HIE.
- Tyra shared the roles of those participating in RAS meetings. Tyra stated that OHS is seeking feedback from a variety of provider organizations and associations, as well as interested stakeholders that will help guide the discussion towards developing policies, procedures and regulations. An invitation will be sent welcoming participation in future RAS meetings beyond that of a public commenter. Tyra stated that RAS is interested in developing recommendations to OHS in collaboration with the invited stakeholders and the permanent committee members of RAS.
- Tyra stated that a second group has been established by statute to support the development of regulations. The group must be established by OHS, by Sept 1, 2024. The group is in the development stages. Tyra gave an overview of its membership and topics.
- Tyra emphasized the importance of acknowledging the totality of what the statute says as recommendations are developed by both groups commenting that the policies and procedures cannot fall short of what is in the statute, nor can they exceed the authority of what is contained within.
- Tyra shared an overview of the tentative topics for discussion during the next RAS meeting of July 11th at 1:00. All meetings are open to the public.

Sumit made closing comments.

Announcements and Meeting Adjournment	Dr. Joseph Quaranta	3:00 pm

Dr. Quaranta thanked presenters and announced the cancellation of the July 2024 meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 15, 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: PowerPoint Presentation (ct.gov)