Health Information Technology Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
May 21, 2020	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	**Webinar:** +1 646 876 9923 US (New York) or +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) Meeting ID: 915 903 919 https://zoom.us/j/915903919

Council Members						
Allan Hackney, HITO (Co-Chair)	X	Ted Doolittle, OHA	X	Lisa Stump		X
Joseph Quaranta (Co-Chair)	X	Stacy Beck	X	Patrick Charmel		X
Joe Stanford, DSS	X	Robert Rioux	X	Alan Kaye, MD		X
Elizabeth Taylor, DMHAS		David Fusco	X	Dina Berlyn		X
Cindy Butterfield, DCF	X	Nicolangelo Scibelli	X	Tekisha Everette		
Cheryl Cepelak, DOC	X	Patricia Checko	X	Cassandra Murphy		X
Vanessa Hinton, DPH	X	Kimberly Martone, OHS	X	Chuck Podesta		X
Dennis C. Mitchell, DDS	X	William Petit, MD	X	Ken Ferrucci		X
Mark Raymond, CIO	X	Jeanette DeJesus	X			
Sandra Czunas, OSC	X	Robert Blundo, AHCT				
Supporting Leadership						
Victoria Veltri, OHS		Alan Fontes, UCONN AIMS		Carol Robinson, CedarBridge		
Sean Fogarty, OHS	X	Tom Agresta, MD, UConn Health		Terry Bequette, CedarBridge		
Adrian Texidor, OHS		Dawn Bonder, CedarBridge		Craig Jones, CedarBridge		
Tina Kumar, OHS	X	Sheetal Shah, CedarBridge				

Agenda			
	Topic	**Responsible Party**	**Time**
1.	**Welcome & Call to Order**	**Allan Hackney**	**1:00 PM**
	Allan Hackney recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Allan introduced and welcomed two new council members, Ken Ferrucci and Chuck Podesta. Allan asked the two new members to introduce themselves.		

	The new council members are Chuck Podesta, interim Chief Information Officer from UConn Health, and Ken Ferrucci interim executive director, and Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for the CT State Medical Society.		
2.	**Public Comment**	**Attendees**	**1:05 PM**
	There was no public comment.		
3.	**Review and Approval of Minutes April 16, 2020**	**Council Members**	**1:10 PM**
	Allan Hackney asked for a motion to approve the April 16 meeting minutes. Mark Raymond created a motion. Vanessa Hinton seconded. There was no further discussion. The minutes were approved.		
4.	**Update: Health Information Alliance, Inc.**	**Allan Hackney**	**1:15 PM**
	Allan Hackney announced that CTHealthLink is the first participating organization of the Health Information Exchange. This is big milestone for the HIE, the legal agreement was signed on May 8, and the technical teams are working on the HIE infrastructure and began the discussion on planning, connectivity and testing to establish technical connection. It is important to note that the early participants are doing a great service for the state because they are helping the HIE team to exercise the infrastructure and systems they've been building and ensure that they are up to the right performance and meeting expectations of the functional requirements. A community legal session was held and addressed several common issues efficiently. There were useful suggestions provided from hospitals, physician groups, the Connecticut Hospital Association and others which have led to improvements and clarity. Allan reiterated the importance of getting the legal framework into a state that's comfortable for all sides. The objective is to balance the legalities fairly across the ecosystem so that everyone is in this together. Allan explained the Operations Advisory Committee (OAC), a group comprised of members of organizations participating in the HIE governance framework who gather around operating issues that are of interest or concern, such as security protocols and specifying the requirements for new use cases. The group got several hospitals and Yale New Haven Health to pool their security assessment needs together, resulting in an efficient mechanism to respond to necessary security assessments. Allan values the input from the OAC and commented they are an interesting group of engaged people guiding and helping us with operational issues being focused upon. Allan announced the HIE Board approved branding for what was now formerly Health Information Alliance Inc. will be referred to as Connie. Please refer to the meaning of the chosen colors and logo here: HIA Update-Connie Logo A soft launch of the brand and website will be released in a few weeks. A formal launch will be later this year when the pandemic calms down. Dr. Alan Kaye commented on the importance of a physician organization for be the first participant of Connie and that CTHealthLink is oriented to physicians and will continue to operate under its own brand and will be		

analogous to a spoke in the hub. CTHealthLink will be the physician link to Connie and will provide more information than just CTHealthLink can alone.

Dr. Kaye asked if CTHealthLink will be under the Connie brand, Allan Hackney clarified that they will not, as CTHealthLink has their separate brand.

Allan Hackney assured Dr. Kaye that Connie is intended to be a value add in sharing data.

5.	**Update: OHS/DSS Joint Steering Committee**	**Allan Hackney**	**1:45 PM**

Allan Hackney shared an update to the Council on the partnership of the OHS/Dept. of Social Services (DSS) Joint Steering Committee (JSC) to oversee HIT activities. The purpose of this committee is to ensure both agencies are in alliance and supporting each other.

Please refer to the update here: DSS/OHS Joint Steering Committee Update.

Representative Bill Petit raises a concern about not having an elected representative on the JSC committee. Allan explained that the purpose of the committee is to steer the HIT activities funded by DSS requests and ensure the two agencies are in alignment. Allan agreed to share this with the JSC committee for consideration.

Dr. Kaye asked to review the working framework slide and believes this is another governance body to do the same work other committees are already doing. He asked for clarity on his concern about how the bodies will interact together. He asked for clarity on who HITAC reports to.

Allan H. reminded the Council the HITAC is in statute and nothing will take the authority and responsibility of HITAC. The JSC will help coordinate two agencies that need to work together to get their responsibilities completed as DSS is the funding mechanism as the oversight agency for Medicaid.

Mark Raymond added that this is common in state government, and the committee will be enabling framework to ensure the funds can flow when and where they need to flow.

Dr. Kaye thanked Mark and Allan for the clarification.

6.	**Update: IAPD**	**Terry Bequette, Sean Fogarty**	**2:00 PM**

Terry Bequette of CedarBridge shared an update on the federal funding request. Please refer to this section of the presentation here for the update: Federal Funding Request HITECH IAPD-U Update.

Following Terry's presentation, questions were entertained from the Council.

Mark Raymond commented on the importance of the tie in to and support of the Medicaid community, and believes it is important for the success of the overall information exchange efforts for sustainability. Mark added that it was helpful and important to have the funds laid out so we can see where we are spending and

how that works. Terry commented that he views it as symbiotic, the HIE helps Medicaid deliver on its mission and the funding helps HIE continue to support this work.

Allan added whether its HITECH or down the road MMIS, the state needs to contribute its portion of shared funding. For the period of this IAPD CT has adequate bond funds authorized and allocated to cover the state's portion of the match. There will be a shift to MMIS for fiscal 2021/2022, which will mean a joint request to the investment committee between OHS and DSS for future work. This is an example of the why the JSC is necessary.

Representative Bill Petit asked about the future funding. Allan responded that HIE work that merges with Medicaid works will continue to be eligible for significant funding to offset the cost of these services. However, with respect to other categories, the state portion will need to be offset. There are ways to do this however, the HIE will need a source of revenue outside of state funding to ensure the burden is not fully shifted back to the state. Connie will be addressing sustainability strategies to address this issue.

Bill Petit shared his concerns about aggressively selling data to fund the program. Bill noted the willingness of people to share their data if it is for a purpose they benefit from. He worries about being too fixated on selling data to keep the doors open and losing opportunities to collect and share important data.

Allan thanked Bill for mentioning the topic because he wanted to state publicly and categorically that the HIE has no intention of selling patient data.

Allan went on to note that successful HIE's across the country offer services to their participating organizations. The rules of HIPAA permit Covered Entities to engage third parties via HIPAA Business Associate agreements to perform a myriad of functions to support treatment, healthcare operations or payment services. As a HIPAA Business Associate of a participating organization, the HIE is in a position of offering value-added services back to the participating organizations regarding their data. He gave the example of offering a clinical quality measure reporting vehicle to CMS for small to mid-size healthcare organizations so they can efficiently report information that is required to participate in meaningful use Federal programs.

Motion: Allan Hackney asked for a motion to affirm the IAPD for submission. Mark Raymond created the motion. Joe Stanford seconded. There was no further discussion. The IAPD was unanimously affirmed.

Next steps: The goal is to submit the request in mid-June to CMS and expect to hear back from CMS by mid-August.

7.	**Discussion: CT Hospital Association Letter**	**Allan Hackney**	**2:20 PM**

Allan addressed letters from CT Hospital Association (CHA) sent to the council advisors. The letters can be referenced here:

CHA Feedback on QDSOA
CHA Letter to Change Telehealth Focus
OHS & DSS Response to CHA: Change to Telehealth Focus

	Lisa Stump thanked Allan for the work that went into the response. Mark Raymond spoke to all the work happening with respect to data movement and shared it has helped to deal with and address pandemic. Continued diligence in moving data sharing and interoperability forward will only lift the sustainability of the system. Patrick Charmel echoed Lisa Stump's comments and thanked Allan for his collaboration and acceptance of the issues raised as constructive criticism.		
8.	**Announcements & General Discussion**	**Allan Hackney**	**2:30 PM**
	None.		
9.	**Wrap up & Meeting Adjournment**	**Council Members**	**3:00 PM**
	Allan Hackney asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Alan Kaye created the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.		

Upcoming Meeting Dates: June 18, July 16, 2020

Meeting information is located at: https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/HIT-Work-Groups/Health-IT-Advisory-Council