



PA 24-19 (HIE) RECOMMENDATIONS WORKGROUP

Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2024 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

Member Attendance*					
OHS Commissioner Deidre Gifford (Chair)	R	Representative Nicole Klarides-Ditria	R	Mikayla Sleeter-Bozym	R
Sumit Sajnani, HITO	R	Jennifer Cox	R	Mag Morelli	R
Senator Saud Anwar	X	Amanda Gunthel	X	Christy Olezeski	R
Senator Heather Somers	X	David Anthony Yoder	R		
Representative Cristin McCarthy-Vahey	X	Zari Watkins	R		
Other Participants					
Tyra Anne Peluso, OHS	R	Elson Guo, OHS	R	Richard Gold, Consultant	R
Amy Tibor, OHS	R	Jenn Searls, Connie	R		
Topic			Presenter		Time
1) Welcome & Call to Order			Commissioner Deidre Gifford		1:02 pm
The PA 24-19 (HIE) Recommendations Workgroup met virtually on Thursday, Oct. 26, 2024. Comm’r. Gifford welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Comm’r Gifford reshared the group’s charge: to provide recommendations to OHS on specific topics related to the regulations of the State-wide HIE. Comm’r Gifford shared that the group is on schedule to meet the deadline of submitting a report to the legislature by Jan. 1, 2025.					
Amy Tibor called the roll to ensure a quorum for the meeting.					
Comm’r Gifford shared a preview of the agenda.					
2) Approval of Minutes: Sept. 26, 2024, Meeting			Workgroup Members		1:06 pm
Comm’r Gifford requested a motion to approve the Sept. 26, 2024, meeting minutes. Motion made (M. Morelli) and seconded (S. Sajnani). The minutes were approved with two abstentions (Comm’r Gifford and M. Sleeter Bozym).					
3) Participating Organization Agreement Follow-Up			Richard Gold, OHS Consultant		1:08 pm
Tyra Anne Peluso shared a disclaimer prior to turning the meeting over to Richard Gold. Richard communicated that OHS and Connie have a meeting scheduled discuss revisions to the agreement between the HIE and participating organizations, and if information is available, it will be shared during the Nov. 20 meeting.					
4) Patient Rights and Education			Richard Gold, Consultant		1:10 pm
Richard presented on patient rights in the context of what the regulations will contain. He shared a detailed overview of the process for opting out of the HIE unless the information is required to be shared by law, the right to privacy and security of PHI, and to consent for certain sensitive health information.					

Richard also shared potential consequences of opting out, such as reducing access to complete health records and continuity of care.

Richard next described what will be included in the regulations pertaining to patient education such as having a free website that educates the public about the HIE with clear and accessible information, a process for making complaints and/or inquiries, and information in multiple languages.

The floor remained open throughout the presentations. Members posed a variety of questions/topics, such as:

- how the opt out process is operationalized when certain data is required to be reported,
- how to create awareness and education for those without internet access, including the older population and those with ESL,
- importance of reducing burdens on providers, particularly smaller practices that lack infrastructure,
- the opt out process for those turning 18,
- data sharing requirements by other HIEs,
- standardizing language across providers, specifically notice of privacy practices

The full presentation and meeting recording can be found here: [Link to PA 24-19 Workgroup Presentation and Recording – Oct. 22, 2024](#)

5) Defining Connecting to and Actively Participating in State-wide HIE	Richard Gold, OHS Consultant	1:45 pm
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Richard next presented on defining “connecting to” and “actively participating” within the regulations. Richard shared two example definitions respectively and provided an overview of what is currently in statute.

A discussion occurred on how frequently providers need to show activity. Sumit explained that once the integration between the EHR system and the HIE occurs, the process for data sharing is automatic.

Discussion occurred regarding large vs small independent practices and available resources to support them in meeting the requirement to connect and participate. Sumit shared that whereas nothing is in the law around this, OHS continues to look into options. Comm’r Gifford referenced a previous CMS EHR Incentive Program (“Meaningful Use”) which had supported some providers with transitioning to electronic records. Jenn Searls shared that Connie is working with the EMR vendors to develop hubs to ensure a smoother process.

6) Member Recommendations	Workgroup Members	2:00 pm
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Comm’r Gifford opened the floor for any further questions and comments. Potential changes being made to the agreement between the HIE and participating organizations was raised for discussion.

The full recording can be viewed/heard here: [Link to PA 24-19 Workgroup Presentation and Recording – Oct. 22, 2024](#)

It was inquired if draft policies and procedures are available for the group to weigh in on. Sumit shared that OHS has started drafting the P&Ps, however they are not quite ready for public consumption. The

Comm'r initiated the next agenda item to further clarify next steps in the process for both the development of the report of recommendations and the formal p&p's/regulations.

7) Next Steps & Action Items

Commissioner Deidre Gifford

2:07 pm

Comm'r Gifford stated that the legislature wanted this group to have the opportunity to advise OHS as the agency enters the drafting phase, and that this is a pre-drafting process. She then shared next steps for consideration by the group:

- OHS has to gather recommendations, many of which have come through this forum directly but written comments and recommendations can also be submitted.
- OHS will draft the p&p's/regulations which will ultimately go into the formal process by which members will again have an opportunity to provide comments to the state.
- The draft report of recommendations will be shared with members by Nov. 13th and it will summarize recommendations to date; members will have an opportunity during Nov. 20th meeting to give feedback and/or add recommendations.

8) Adjournment

Commissioner Deidre Gifford

2:15 pm

Comm'r Gifford requested a motion to adjourn. Motion made (A. Yoder) and seconded (M. Morelli). Meeting adjourned.

**In accordance with FOIA statutes re: meetings held by solely by electronic-means (remote) R= attended remotely, IP= attended in person, X= unable to attend*

Next Meeting: November 20, 2024 (session 4 of 4)