



## PA 24-19 (HIE) RECOMMENDATIONS WORKGROUP

### Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2024 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

Member Attendance*					
OHS Commissioner Deidre Gifford (Chair)	X	Representative Nicole Klarides-Ditria	X	Mikayla Sleeter-Bozym	X
Sumit Sajnani, HITO	R	Jennifer Cox	R	Mag Morelli	R
Senator Saud Anwar	X	Amanda Gunthel	R	Christy Olezeski	R
Senator Heather Somers	X	David Anthony Yoder	R		
Representative Cristin McCarthy-Vahey	R	Zari Watkins	R		
Supporting Leadership & Other Participants					
Antony Casagrande, OHS	R	Tyra Anne Peluso, OHS	R	Nichole Sweeney, CRISP	R
Amy Tibor, OHS	R	Richard Gold, Consultant	R		
Elson Guo, OHS	R	Jenn Searls, Connie	R		
Topic		Presenter		Time	
1) Welcome & Call to Order		Sumit Sajnani, HITO		1:03 pm	
The PA 24-19 (HIE) Recommendations Workgroup met virtually on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024. Sumit Sajnani welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Sumit reintroduced himself and announced that Comm’r. Gifford has designated him chair in her absence. He then shared opening remarks.					
Upon roll call it was determined quorum had not been reached, however the meeting would proceed and the vote on minutes would occur once quorum is met.					
Sumit turned the meeting over to Amy Tibor who summarized the actionable items from the previous meeting. Sumit then shared an overview of the agenda, noting one such topic includes the handling of reproductive health data. Sumit commented that the topic has been of great concern and interest, and several associations and stakeholders have asked for it to be addressed; the topic is also of critical importance to the Governor and his administration. Sumit shared a preview of the presentation which will address the management of reproductive health data by other states and across state lines. He indicated that HIE regulations will clearly state abortion related data sharing would be restricted beyond CT borders.					
2) Approval of Minutes: August 27, 2024 Meeting		Sumit Sajnani, HITO		1:13 pm	
Minutes approval was tabled to later in the meeting pending quorum.					
3) Health Care Provider Liability		Attorney Richard Gold, OHS Consultant		1:15 pm	
Tyra Anne Peluso shared a disclaimer prior to turning the meeting over to Richard Gold, OHS consultant, to present on HIE regulations framework.					

Richard presented on the sections in the amended legislation (SB 1) that addresses provider liability. An opportunity for members to provide feedback on all topics would occur later in the meeting.

#### **4) Regulations on State-wide HIE / Participating Organization Contracting Requirements**

**Attorney Richard Gold, Consultant**

**1:20 pm**

Richard next presented on the regulation's framework pertaining to the contract between the HIE and participating organizations. Richard stated that OHS and Connie both recognize the concerns that providers have expressed regarding the current contract. After OHS issues its regulations and the regulations become final, Connie has agreed to work on drafting a new provider agreement. Richard shared an overview of what the regulations will contain.

Richard's full presentation and meeting the recording can be found here: [Link to PA 24-19 Workgroup Presentation and Recording – Sept. 27, 2024](#)

#### **5) Sensitive Information (including Reproductive Health Data)**

**Richard Gold, OHS Consultant  
Nichole Sweeney, CRISP Shared  
Services & Jenn Searls, Connie**

**1:25 pm**

Richard next shared that, regarding reproductive health data, the regulations will comply with all federal and state laws and regulations, including the Office of Civil Rights HHS' Final Rule regarding the prohibition of using such information for any kind of criminal matter or liability issues, and CT's PA 22-19. The regulations shall prohibit the sharing of abortion health information through the HIE outside CT unless there is explicit consent. OHS is committed to reaching out to other experts and gaining insight on how to handle other reproductive health information and reviewing how other states are handling this sensitive subject.

Richard introduced Nichole Sweeney, Key highlights from the presentation included:

- A general introduction: Nichole is the general counsel and chief privacy officer of MD's HIE and Health Data Utility, and DC's HIE and Health Data Utility. Nichole also chairs the MD Protected Health Commission. CRISP provides the underlying infrastructure for 7 HIE's across the country, including Connie.
- Nichole presented on the Cures Act, which promotes health data interoperability across state lines
- Nichole explained Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA), a government-backed network of networks that facilitates data sharing among providers, and Quality Health Information Networks.
- Explained information blocking law, which requires data sharing unless there are specific circumstances preventing it (8 exceptions to the provision and a 9<sup>th</sup> being proposed).
- An overview of and distinctions between MD law and CA laws around sharing sensitive health information such as reproductive health data and gender-affirming care.
- HIPAA amendment expected January 2025.

Nichole turned the meeting over to Jenn Searls who described how Connie is participating in national networks. The full presentation can be viewed here: [Link to PA 24-19 Workgroup Presentation and Recording – Sept. 27, 2024](#)

#### **6) Member Recommendations**

**Workgroup Members**

**2:00 pm**

Sumit opened the floor for questions, discussion and recommendations on the topics presented. The floor was opened at approximately the 1:03:20 into the recording: [Link to PA 24-19 Workgroup Presentation and Recording – Sept. 27, 2024](#).

Sumit announced that a quorum had been established shortly after roll call, and at this time, he requested a motion to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2024, meeting. A motion was made (Morelli) and seconded (Cox). The minutes were approved unanimously.		
<b>7) Next Steps &amp; Meeting Adjournment</b>	<b>Sumit Sajnani, HITO</b>	<b>2:20 pm</b>
Sumit expressed hope for all recommendations to be submitted to OHS prior to the final meeting of Nov 20; the recommendations would then be consolidated into an official document.		
Sumit requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made (Morelli) and the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:21 pm.		

*\*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 Meetings**  
October 22, 2024 | November 20, 2024