



PA 24-19 (HIE) RECOMMENDATIONS WORKGROUP

Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2024 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

Member Attendance*					
OHS Commissioner Deidre Gifford (Chair)	R	Representative Nicole Klarides-Ditria	X	Mikayla Sleeter-Bozym	R
Sumit Sajnani, HITO	R	Jennifer Cox	R	Mag Morelli	R
Senator Saud Anwar	R	Amanda Gunthel	R	Christy Olezeski	R
Senator Heather Somers	R	David Anthony Yoder	R	Susan Halpin	X
Representative Cristin McCarthy-Vahey	R	Zari Watkins	R		
Supporting Leadership & Other Participants					
Tyra Anne Peluso, OHS	R	Richard Gold, Consultant	R	Bezawit Sumner, CRISP	R
Amy Tibor, OHS	R	Jenn Searls, Connie	R	Nichole Sweeney, CRISP	R
Elson Guo, OHS	R	Michelle Puhlick, Connie	R		
Boyd Jackson, OHS	R	William Roberts, Day Pitney	R		
Topic			Presenter		Time
1) Welcome, Call to Order & Introductions			Commissioner Deidre Gifford		1:00 pm
The PA 24-19 Recommendations Workgroup held its first meeting virtually on Tuesday, August 27, 2024. Commissioner Gifford welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Comm'r Gifford introduced herself and made opening remarks; the group will make recommendations on a set of specific and pre-defined topics regarding regulation of the CT HIE. OHS is required to compile recommendations into a report to the legislature due not later than January 1, 2025.					
Roll call determined that a quorum was present. Amy Tibor facilitated introductions by workgroup members, staff, and external participants.					
Comm'r Gifford highlighted the success of the Statewide HIE. She stated that OHS has administrative oversight over the HIE but it is operated by a designated independent entity, Connie. Connie has been operational for more than three years. Currently 3,000 provider organizations across a broad spectrum of health care are connected with and contributing data to Connie.					
Comm'r Gifford turned the meeting over to Tyra Peluso to share an overview of the group charter.					
2) Charter Overview			Tyra Anne Peluso, OHS		1:15 pm
Tyra presented the workgroup charter detailing its purpose, scope, and time-limited mandate to present recommendations on the statutorily identified topics by January 1, 2025. Tyra emphasized the importance of understanding the defined purpose and statutory goals of the statewide HIE and the need to consider the totality of the statutory goals when drafting policies and procedures.					
Sumit discussed how OHS arrived at the topics, noting some are defined in statute and others added based on stakeholder feedback. Sumit stated there may be overlap with the topics. Sumit commented regarding the exchange of data occurring through other HIEs within the state, noting that some of the recommendations developed can apply broadly and not to just Connie. He advised the group to consider the broader implications of their recommendations and to differentiate between statewide and other data exchanges. Comm'r Gifford.					

The meeting was turned over to Richard Gold.		
3) Statewide HIE Regulatory and Policy Framework – Privacy and Security	Attorney Richard Gold, Consultant	1:25 pm
<p>Richard, who is providing consultative support to OHS in the drafting of the regulations, shared the framework of the areas that the regulations will cover dealing with privacy and security. Richard discussed the subject areas that will require affirmative consent before information is shared, including data covered by HIPAA, 42 CFR, HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, gender affirming health, and those areas covered that intersect with the educational requirements of FERPA. Discussion moved to cybersecurity regulations, with Richard highlighting the need for safeguards, backup plans, and security audits.</p> <p>Richard's full presentation and the meeting recording can be found here: PA 24-19 Recommendations Workgroup Recording and Presentation</p>		
4) Overview on how Connie meets Policy Framework	Jenn Searls, Connie	1:40 pm
<p>Jenn shared how Connie is currently operationalizing the policy framework presented by Richard, emphasizing the importance of patient consent, the development of a patient portal, and robust privacy and security controls. A summary of Jenn's comments can be found here: PA 24-19 Talking Points by Jenn Searls. The full presentation and Zoom recording can be found here: PA 24-19 Recommendations Workgroup Recording and Presentation</p> <p>Comm'r. Gifford made remarks before turning the meeting over to Sumit.</p>		
5) Member Recommendations	Workgroup Members	1:50 pm
<p>Sumit moderated questions and comments from workgroup members. A range of topics was discussed. Sumit shared the procedure for recommendations to be shared. Members will send recommendations by email to Amy Tibor. Comm'r Gifford commented that recommendations could be submitted at any time during the operational phase. It was asked whether the policies and procedures could be shared with members before the 30-day public comment period. Sumit stated he will get back to the group.</p> <p>Actionable items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members to submit recommendations to Amy Tibor (amy.tibor@ct.gov). OHS to share summary of Jenn's comments and resources. OHS to share names of states that have been reviewed for policy comparisons. 		
6) Next Steps & Meeting Adjournment	Commissioner Deidre Gifford	3:00 pm
The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.		

**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:

September 26, 2024 | October 22, 2024 | November 20, 2024