OHS
CONNECTICUT
Office *of* Health Strategy

Health Information Technology Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes | June 15, 2023

Meeting Date		Meeting Time	Location	
June 15, 2023		1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Zoom Meeting Recording	

Members						
Joseph Quaranta (Co-Chair)	X	Josh Scalora, DDS	R	Dr. Alan Kaye	R	
Sumit Sajnani, OHS HITO (Co-Chair)	R	Josh Wojcik, OSC (Sandra Czunas) (Joined 2:15pm)	R	Dina Berlyn	R	
Gui Woolston, DSS	X	Ted Doolittle, OHA	R	Cassandra Murphy	R	
Elizabeth Taylor, DMHAS	X	David Fusco	R	Dr. Susan Israel	R	
Nicole Taylor, MD, DCF	R	Nicolangelo Scibelli	X	Mark Gildea	R	
Sharonda Carlos, DOC (Dr. Byron Kennedy)	R	Dr. Patricia Checko	R	Rebecca McLear, AHCT	X	
Jody Terranova, DPH	R	Lisa Stump	R	Dr. Michael Crain	X	
Mark Raymond, CIO	R	Patrick Charmel	X			

Supporting Leadership & Other Participants						
Vasi Gournaris, OHS	R	Jeannina Thompson, OHS	R	Heidi Wilson, Connie	R	
Amy Tibor, OHS	R	Jenn Searls, Connie	R			

In accordance with FOIA statutes re: meetings held by solely by electronic-means: R=attended remotely, IP=attended in person, X=did not attend

Topic	Responsible Party	Time
Welcome and Call to Order	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO**	**1:04 PM**
The regularly scheduled meeting of the HITAC was held virtually on Thursday, June 15, 2023. Sumit Sajnani welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Roll call was tabled to later in the meeting.		
Public Comment	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO**	**1:05 PM**
No public comments were made.		
Council Action: Approval of Minutes: May 18, 2023	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO**	**1:05 PM**
Review and approval of minutes was tabled to later in the meeting.		
HIE Regulations Discussion	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO & Vasi Gournaris**	**1:05 PM**

Ms. Gournaris provided a status update on the development of HIE regulations (regs), key highlights from the presentation included:

- A summary of the previous presentation to HITAC including background and purpose for formulating regs, statutes authorizing OHS to adopt policies and procedures and regs, role of HITAC, formal regs process, several initial concepts, and initial HITAC input.
- During the last meeting, several members expressed support for establishing a subgroup. OHS has since drafted a charter for HITAC review and approval.
- Ms. Gournaris presented an overview of the structure for the proposed subcommittee: meetings would be open to the public and include 6-9 HITAC members or their designees, the group would potentially meet during a 12-month term; various subject matter experts would be invited including other members of HITAC, OHS and Connie representatives.
- An overview of the workflow for how regs would be developed.
- A proposed committee composition and members who have volunteered so far. OHS is seeking HITAC subject matter experts. Once membership is formalized, members will be surveyed on their availability before a schedule is finalized.

- ▪ HITAC members should reach out to OHS regarding meeting topics they would like to provide feedback based on subject matter expertise. Members may provide feedback on more than one topic. HITAC members are invited to any or all meetings.

At this time, Mr. Sajnani requested a roll call be conducted; upon roll call, it was determined a quorum was present.

Mr. Sajnani gave a presentation on the draft charter for the HITAC HIE Regulations Advisory Subcommittee. Mr. Sajnani stated that HITAC's advisory role includes providing advice and guidance to the OHS executive director and the HITO on a variety of aspects, including the HIE. Mr. Sajnani distinguished between the subcommittee's purpose and 11 existing statutory goals of the HIE. Mr. Sajnani clarified that whereas the subcommittee would not write the regs, OHS is looking for a sounding board, a feedback group, and such feedback will guide and inform OHS to build out the regs. Mr. Sajnani reiterated the process for how the committee will work and its membership composition. The group will follow Roberts Rules and have standard project management and committee support including for the publishing of meeting notices and minutes, akin to having a HITAC meeting.

Council Action: Approval of Draft HIE Regulations Charter	Sumit Sajnani, HITO	

(Vote) Mr. Sajnani requested a motion to approve establishing a Health Information Exchange Regulations Subcommittee as described in the charter. A motion was made (Raymond) and seconded (Stump). There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Sajnani encouraged members to please reach out if they are interested in participating.

FY 2024 and FY 2025 Advanced Planning Document	Sumit Sajnani, HITO	1:30 PM

Mr. Sajnani presented the FY 2024 and 2025 Advanced Planning Document, key highlights included:

- ▪ HITAC has a role to provide guidance on any of the federal funding requests related to the HIE. Current federal funding ends Sept. 30, 2023; the updated request is to receive federal funding for the next two years, and the request will be submitted by DSS to CMS following review and comment by HITAC.
- ▪ A discussion on CMS funding structure and cost allocation methodology.
- ▪ Key highlights of the Operational Advanced Planning Document (OAPD) and Implementation Advanced Planning Document (IAPD), including:
  - o All of the functionality within Connie that is currently in production is CMS certified.
  - o A roadmap of Connie's phase implementation combined from an IAPD and OAPD.
  - o An update on Connie certification progress by use case.
  - o An update on the progress of development of a Connie patient portal; Mr. Sajnani distinguished between patient *access* versus patient *portal*. There is a plan to have patient access by Oct 1, 2023 through a third-party app. The patient portal would then include a website; the go live date for the portal is Oct 1, 2024. The use case is expected to be certified in FFY 24.
  - o A breakdown of Connie operational costs.
  - o CMS allows 90% federal cost sharing for activities that are in planning, design, development, and implementation. Mr. Sajnani provided a detailed overview of all use cases and their current stages.
  - o Overview of IAPD budget and IAPD cost allocations for FFY 24/25.

The floor was opened was questions. Mr. Raymond inquired about consumer knowledge and feedback on the use cases identified in the federal request. Mr. Sajnani stated that the origination of the use cases came from a previous HITAC subcommittee; Mr. Sajnani commented that time has passed since the work of the use case subgroup and where Connie is operationally, and the value proposition should be revisited, noting that it is appropriate that HITAC start having discussions and put some measurements in place, whether through surveys or other mechanisms. A discussion also took place regarding intersystem referrals/eRefferals. Ms. Searls discussed a current pilot with Wheeler Clinic. Ms. Searls will come back to the group with more information and will also follow up directly with Mr. Gildea.

Mr. Sajnani thanked those involved in preparing the IAPD and OAPD.

The full presentation can be found here: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OHS/Health-IT-Advisory-Council/Agendas/2021-2023-Meetings/6-15-23/OHS-HITAC-Presentation-06152023.pdf

(Vote) At this time, Mr. Sajnani requested a motion to approve the May 18, 2023, minutes. A motion was made (Checko) and seconded (Raymond). There was no discussion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Connie Privacy, Confidentiality & Security Committee Update	Mark Raymond, CIO	2:05 PM

Mark Raymond presented an update on recent activities of the Connie Privacy, Confidentiality and Security Committee. Mr. Raymond stated that the group met recently to discuss a policy around service level and operating monitoring; the policy has since been sent to the Connie Board for action. Mr. Raymond indicated that the committee conducts reviews and sends items to

the board for full board action. Mr. Raymond stated that the group also discussed in the recent meeting information handling practices and held an executive session regarding security, strategy, and operations. The next meeting is October 5. So far several of the initial Connie privacy, security and confidentiality policies and procedures have been moved to the board for action.

Connie Update	**Jenn Searls & Heidi Wilson, Connie**	**2:10 PM**

Jenn Searls provided an update on key Connie activities, highlights included:

- Outreach update:
  - The backlog reported during the previous HITAC meeting regarding those organizations connecting to Connie has cleared. Approx. 75% of organizations contacted are completing their Commitment to Connect form and Approx. are 25% outstanding. Approx. one third of the organizations that completed a commitment to connect form do not have EMRs, and Connie is assisting with securing a direct email as required by statute.
- Onboarding update and highlights:
  - Trinity Health of New England is officially live.
  - Yale New Haven Health system has gone live with images.
  - Working on final testing for a hub.
  - Continuing to work with Point, Click, Care.
- Month-to-month utilization and onboarding metrics.
- Update on Connie alerts.
- Connie has reached a new milestone of 310 weekly distinct users hitting the Connie system to query for data.
- A problem tab has been added as a new system feature.
- There is an upcoming presentation to the OHS-DSS Joint Steering Committee around integration with ADVault/*My*Directives.
- Connie is working on developing grant documentation and writing grant proposals related to RELD data.
- In conjunction with the work being done by OHS to develop regs, Connie is reviewing the legislation that outlines 11 goals for the HIE, to review the progress for each. Connie plans to provide a progress update on these 11 goals to HITAC and the Connie board in the fall.

Ms. Wilson presented an update on community engagement and progress on patient access:
- Community engagement: Connie has been holding communication forums with the behavioral health community. Ms. Wilson described the purpose of engaging the providers, and next steps. Additional meetings are also scheduled with groups such as community health centers; Connie will be scheduling additional forums to continue the dialogue.
- Patient access: Connie is on track with implementing a pilot for patients to access their data using a third-party app, as well as implementing a more manual process for those not interested in using an app, by the end of this fiscal year. Connie is also gathering technical requirements for the Connie patient portal and the majority of this development work will occur in the next fiscal year.

Announcements & General Discussion	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO**	**2:30 PM**

Mr. Sajnani announced that Kelly Sinko Steuber, OHS' HITAC designee and Director of Innovation is departing the agency to join DMHAS, he thanked her for her work related to HITAC and wished her well.

Council Action: Wrap Up and Meeting Adjournment	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO**	**2:33 PM**

(Vote) Mr. Sajnani requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made (Raymond) and seconded (Stump). The meeting adjourned at 2:33 PM.

Upcoming Meeting Date: July 20, 2023

All meeting information and materials are published on the OHS website:
https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/HIT-Work-Groups/Health-IT- Advisory-Council

Full June 2023 meeting presentation:
https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OHS/Health-IT-Advisory-Council/Agendas/2021-2023-Meetings/6-15-23/OHS-HITAC-Presentation-06152023.pdf

Zoom Recording
ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/OHS_HITAC_Meeting_Recording_06152023.mp4