



**All Payer Claims Database Advisory Group  
Meeting Minutes | February 10, 2022**

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
February 10, 2022	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<a href="#">Zoom Meeting Recording</a>

**Participant Name and Attendance**

Advisory Group Members					
Sumit Sajnani, Chair, HITO, OHS	R	Dr. Patricia Checko	R	Robert Barry, DAS BEST	R
Olga Armah, Co-Chair, OHS	R	François de Brantes	R	Dr. Micheala Dinan	R
Paul Lombardo	R	Sandra Czunas (Josh Wojcik)	R	Cassandra Murphy	R
Dr. Robert Aseltine	R	Michael Giralmo, DHMAS	R	Rachael Lines	
Scott Gaul, OPM	R	Robert Scalettar, MD	R	Layne Gakos	
Ted Doolittle, OHA	R	James Iacobellis	R		
Bill Halsey, DSS		Bernie Inskeep	R		

Supporting Leadership					
Adrian Texidor	R	Demian Fontanella			
Amy Tibor	R	Joseph Rus	R		

R = Attended Remotely, IP = Attended In Person

**Agenda**

	Topic	Responsible Party	Time
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Call to Order</b>	<b>Olga Armah</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
	The regularly scheduled meeting of the APCD Advisory Group was held on Thursday, February 10, 2022 by webinar. Olga Armah welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.		
	Amy Tibor administered the roll call and determined that a quorum had been established.		
<b>2.</b>	<b>Introductions</b>	<b>Olga Armah</b>	<b>1:02 PM</b>
	Ms. Armah announced the addition of Layne Gakos of the Connecticut State Medical Society on an interim basis in the absence of Ken Ferrucci.		
<b>3.</b>	<b>Public Comment</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>1:03 PM</b>
	There was no public comment.		
<b>4.</b>	<b>Review and Approval of November 4, 2021 Minutes</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>1:04 PM</b>
	Ms. Armah requested a motion to approve the November 4, 2021 APCD Advisory Group meeting minutes. James Iacobellis made the motion. Bernie Inskeep seconded. There was no further discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously.		
<b>5.</b>	<b>Level Setting: Purpose and Role of APCD Advisory Group</b>	<b>Olga Armah</b>	<b>1:05 PM</b>
	Ms. Armah presented on Level Setting the Purpose and Role of the APCD Advisory Group. Ms. Armah stated that a presentation on level setting will be provided annually to all OHS Health Information Technology committees.		
	Highlights of Ms. Armah’s presentation included:		

- An overview of the advisory group structure and membership.
- An overview of the role and purpose of the advisory group: Ms. Armah described the circumstances under which OHS will consult the group.
- An overview of the purpose of the APCD: Ms. Armah indicated that the purpose of the APCD is to help consumers make informed decisions about healthcare services, and to make data available to state agencies, insurance employers, consumers, and researchers, to research healthcare utilization costs and quality while protecting patient privacy.
- An overview of prior and current committees of the advisory group: Ms. Armah stated that a previous *Data Privacy and Security Committee* met for a fixed duration in 2019 and the *Data Release Committee* (DRC) actively meets monthly or as needed to review data request applications made by researchers.

Mr. Gaul inquired about the relationship between the Health Information Technology Advisory Council (HITAC) and the APCD Advisory Group. Ms. Armah stated that the advisory group is a working group of the HITAC. Mr. Sajnani commented that HITAC will be presented with an APCD update on a periodic basis in 2022 and onwards. Mr. Iacobellis noted that the advisory group is a statutory body which began independently, now under the HITAC as a standing working group and can be changed only by legislation.

<b>6.</b>	<b>Update: Health Information Technology Advisory Council</b>	<b>Sumit Sajnani, HITO</b>	<b>1:13 PM</b>
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Mr. Sajnani presented an update on the activities of the Health Information Technology Advisory Council.

- Mr. Sajnani stated that OHS submitted a statutorily required annual Health IT Report, and a five-year Connecticut statewide health IT plan to the Connecticut General Assembly on February 1, 2022. Mr. Sajnani stated that the statewide plan is a rolling five-year plan that will be reviewed and updated annually, with some of the activities beginning in 2022, and others occurring in progression.
- Mr. Sajnani provided a brief description of the environmental scan that informed six strategic focus areas identified within the statewide plan and an overview of each of the areas.
  - Mr. Sajnani stated that focus area 1 relates to sustaining and increasing use of statewide health information exchange (HIE) services through Connie. Mr. Sajnani stated that Connie opened for business in May of 2021 in accordance with a statutory mandate. The focus area relates to how to optimize Connie to become a public health data exchange.
  - Mr. Sajnani stated that focus area 2 relates to building systems to improve health equity and address social needs, and described several activities under this area, such as collecting and examining social risk data, connecting community-based organizations to the HIE, and evaluating the possibility of converting the HIE into a Community Information Exchange.
  - Mr. Sajnani stated that focus area 3 relates to improving service coordination and data sharing across state HHS agencies. Mr. Sajnani commented that significant effort and collaboration is already underway throughout state government in this area. Mr. Sajnani described one effort underway involving the evaluation by state HHS leaders' technology staff regarding opportunities to adopt a whole-person approach.
  - Mr. Sajnani stated that focus area 4 relates to behavioral health (BH) providers' adoption of electronic health records (EHRs) and connecting them to the HIE. Mr. Sajnani commented on the significant federal funds that have been provided to non-behavioral health providers for adoption of EHR. Mr. Sajnani stated that the environmental scan revealed BH providers' concerns with connecting to the HIE; a subsequent activity under this goal is to engage more with BH providers to understand the concerns and consider solutions that may better suit BH type of data.
  - Mr. Sajnani stated that focus area 5 relates to protecting patients' and families' health information privacy. Mr. Sajnani indicated this focus area overlaps with other focus areas. He described this as an important component that needs to be an ongoing priority for the state, for its residents and all the different components that tie together as more systems are connected.
  - Mr. Sajnani stated that focus area 6 relates to electronic data standards. He described one example as the collection of race, ethnicity, and language (REL) data. OHS has published an

	<p>implementation and data standards guide related to the new state mandate on REL collection and reporting.</p> <p>Mr. Iacobellis asked how patient consent will work from a patient perspective. Mr. Sajnani stated that by default patients are opted-in to Connie unless the patient takes the effort to opt-out. A provider must demonstrate a treatment relationship with the patient to access information. Mr. Sajnani described the process when a patient decides to opt-out. Mr. Iacobellis inquired about how it will be communicated to a patient regarding any risks associated with opting-in to Connie. Mr. Sajnani stated that whereas an individual instance of communicating to patients regarding movement and sharing of their data is not planned, broad outreach to inform state residents regarding the existence of the HIE and how it operates, is planned under this focus area.</p> <p>Dr. Scalettar inquired about information-sharing efforts with other states or national councils regarding the work being done under focus area three. Mr. Sajnani commented that looking at other states is a critical component and stated that this is occurring at a project-based level for a specific scope; this is an open item and any opportunities to learn from Advisors are welcome. Mr. Gaul commented on groups that provide national technical assistance to states on linking and sharing data and provided several examples.</p>		
<b>7.</b>	<b>Draft APCD Advisory Group 2022 Strategic Objectives Discussion</b>	<b>Olga Armah, OHS</b>	<b>1:45 PM</b>
	<p>Ms. Armah presented on the draft Advisory Group 2022 Strategic Objectives.</p> <p>Highlights of Ms. Armah’s presentation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An overview of the draft strategic objectives for 2022 for approval by the group. Ms. Armah stated that the strategic objectives would be presented to HITAC in March. The strategic objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Review and approve the APCD Advisory Group Charter.</li> <li>○ Establish a denied and dental claims workgroup to advise on data submission guide amendments.</li> <li>○ Develop a stakeholder engagement campaign to encourage self-insured employers to submit to the CT-APCD. Ms. Armah stated that this would be in preparation for the possibility that states could receive federal funding to develop or enhance APCDs.</li> <li>○ Develop additional data use case recommendations.</li> <li>○ Review and approve the updated APCD policies and procedures for data release. Ms. Armah stated that some of the changes would include expedited review of certain data applications and simplifying the process for state agencies to access APCD data. Ms. Armah stated that it can be discussed in a future meeting on how to approach the changes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Ms. Armah requested a motion to accept the draft advisory group 2022 strategic objectives. Dr. Checko made the motion. Jim Iacobellis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.</p>		
<b>8.</b>	<b>APCD Updates</b>	<b>Adrian Texidor, OHS</b>	<b>1:50 PM</b>
	<p>Mr. Texidor presented on the APCD updates.</p> <p>Highlights of Mr. Texidor’s presentation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An overview of the current data types and years available within the APCD: Mr. Texidor stated that the APCD currently includes medical and pharmacy claims data, and information from provider and eligibility files. Mr. Texidor stated that following the Advisory Group’s approval, work is underway to include dental and denied claims in the APCD. Mr. Texidor presented the type of claims available and the years available by product line parsed out by subtype: commercial, Medicaid and Medicare. Mr. Texidor state that data is currently available for 1/1/2012 to 9/30/2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Extracts expected within the next three weeks will give the APCD a full complement of claims data for commercial payors.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Medicaid data should also be received from the Medicaid data warehouse in the same extract. Mr. Texidor commented that a lot of work has been done in conforming DSS data set to the data submission guide.</li> <li>○ There is a lag of one and a half years to two years to receive Medicare data. The Centers for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services (CMS) has just released 2020 medical Medicare claims data available for states to apply for. OHS will update and amend the DUA to request a full complement of available eligibility, medical and pharmacy Medicare data.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Gaul inquired regarding whether the DUA for Medicare is finalized. Mr. Texidor replied that it is not. Mr. Gaul recommended reaching out to DPH which uses the data for developing population estimates, a function of DPH that may be due to be evaluate again. Mr. Texidor stated that state agencies should request Medicare data through OHS and that OHS is currently working with DPH. Mr. Texidor asked Mr. Gaul, through his data work, to let other agencies know to reach out to OHS if they have a use case in which the APCD may be of value to them.</p> <p>Mr. Iacobellis inquired about the percentage of all data available within the APCD and what will achieve 100% availability of data. Ms. Armah clarified that according to the federal Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, in 2020, self-insured plans enrollees made 27% of CT employees enrolled in employer sponsored health insurance plans. The APCD comprises, the fully insured commercial, self-insured state-employees and Partnership (CT municipalities) commercial, Medicaid and Medicare data. Mr. Texidor commented that the APCD currently has data available for 1.58 million covered lives. It was agreed that staff will provide current figures at the next meeting.</p>		
9.	<b>Update: APCD Denied Claims Data</b>	<b>Olga Armah, OHS</b>	<b>2:00 PM</b>
	<p>Ms. Armah presented on the APCD Denied Claims Data Update.</p> <p>Ms. Armah stated that the advisory group approved collection of denied claims during the November 2021 meeting. Ms. Armah stated that the next step is to establish a work group to assist OHS in making various modifications to the Data Submission Guide (DSG). Ms. Armah asked members to let staff know if they are interested in participating or for recommendations regarding membership. Ms. Armah stated that the DSG also needs to be modified to include dental claims data submission. Members can contact Amy Tibor, Mr. Texidor, or Ms. Armah if they would like to participate or have recommendations. Ms. Armah stated that OHS would like to finalize membership within the next two to three weeks.</p>		
10.	<b>APCD Data Release Committee Report</b>	<b>Dr. Patricia Checko</b>	<b>2:10 PM</b>
	<p>Dr. Patricia Checko presented on the APCD Data Release Committee Report.</p> <p>Highlights from Dr. Checko’s presentation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An overview of the activities of the DRC during 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Checko stated that in 2021, the DRC spent time evaluating the data request application process and form. In its current form, the application is minimal in design and requests a brief hypothesis and methodology. Dr. Checko stated that the DRC invites the applicant to present their application request in-person to the DRC. A small work group of the DRC was established to review the application process but due to the magnitude of the initiative, the process was moved to the full group. The group will invite state APCDs, specifically the New England states to present on their APCD statutes, data release application form, process and structures. The DRC will continue to review the application and possibly make recommendations to the advisory group regarding possible revisions to the APCD policies and procedures.</li> <li>○ The DRC reviewed and approved three applications in 2021: 1) Apperture, LLC, 2) Yale HPV study, and 3) UConn’s suicide algorithm study.</li> <li>○ The DRC received its first publication submitted by UConn.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

	<p>Dr. Checko thanked Mr. Texidor and the DRC for their efforts. Dr. Checko commented that the DRC has two vacancies, one being an attorney with insurance knowledge and the other a physician. She asked members to please share any recommendations with her or Ms. Armah.</p> <p>Ms. Armah commented that the policies and procedures need to be strengthened to make sure that the application adequately covers all the information needed to make decisions about releasing data. Dr. Checko commented regarding making sure both internal (CT state agencies) and external requests are rigorously evaluated.</p> <p>Dr. Scalettar commented briefly regarding the genesis of the original policies and procedures which were developed by Access Health.</p>			
<b>11.</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Wrap Up &amp; Adjournment</b></td> <td><b>Olga Armah, OHS</b></td> <td><b>2:18 PM</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Wrap Up &amp; Adjournment</b>	<b>Olga Armah, OHS</b>	<b>2:18 PM</b>
<b>Wrap Up &amp; Adjournment</b>	<b>Olga Armah, OHS</b>	<b>2:18 PM</b>		
	<p>Ms. Armah requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Scalettar made the motion. Sandra Czunas seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.</p>			

**Upcoming Meeting Dates:** May 12, 2022 | August 11, 2022 | November 10, 2022

**All meeting information and materials can be found at**  
<https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/HIT-Work-Groups/Health-IT-Advisory-Council>