OHS CONNECTICUT Office of Health Strategy

All Payer Claims Database Advisory Group
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2023

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
May 11, 2023	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Zoom Meeting Recording

Attendance: Advisory Group Members					
Sumit Sajnani, HITO (Chair)	R	Patricia Checko	R	Bernie Inskeep	R
Paul Lombardo	R	François de Brantes	X	Robert Barry, DAS	X
Robert Aseltine	X	Sandra Czunas	R	Michaela Dinan	X
Scott Gaul, OPM	R	Michael Girlamo, DHMAS	R	Cassandra Murphy	R
Ted Doolittle, OHA	R	Robert Scalettar, MD	X		
William Halsey, DSS	X	James Iacobellis	X		

Supporting Leadership					
Olga Armah, OHS	R	Amy Tibor, OHS	R	Adrian Texidor, OHS	R

Other Participants					
N/a					

In accordance with current FOIA statutes re: meetings held by solely by electronic means: R = attended remotely, IP = attended in person

Agenda			
	Topic	**Responsible Party**	**Time**
1.	**Welcome and Call to Order**	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO**	**1:04 PM**
	The regularly scheduled meeting of the APCD Advisory Group was held virtually on Thursday, May 11, 2023. Mr. Sajnani welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Roll call was tabled to later in the meeting. Mr. Sajnani commented that Olga Armah will join the meeting, but due to technical issues he will chair the meeting.		
2.	**Public Comment**	**Members of Public**	**1:05 PM**
	A public comment was received by email in advance of the meeting and read by Adrian Texidor on behalf of public member, Mohit Agrawal. The full public comment can be found here: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OHS/Health-IT-Advisory-Council/APCD-Advisory-Group/Meeting-Materials/5-11-23/Public-comment-from-Mohit-Agrawal.pdf Mr. Sajnani thanked Mr. Agrawal for his comments and stated that the written comment will be shared with council members.		
3.	**Review and Approval of Minutes: February 9, 2023 & April 26, 2023**	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO**	**1:08 PM**
	Review and approval of minutes was tabled to later in the meeting.		
4.	**APCD Strategic Prioritization**	**Adrian Texidor, OHS**	**1:08 PM**
	Mr. Texidor provided a presentation on APCD strategic prioritization, key highlights included: • OHS is undergoing a strategic planning process using progressive elaboration. • A proposed project plan, incorporating stakeholder feedback will be presented in August. The proposed project plan will outline project activities for 2023 and beyond. Staff will seek more council feedback on the plan during the August meeting. • Strategic initiatives were placed into two categories: 1) data enhancement and utilization, and 2) operational enhancements. Mr. Texidor described all sub-categories. • Members from both the APCD Advisory Group and Data Release Committee provided feedback on 6 of the 8 proposals. • An overview of some of the feedback received was provided.		

- Mr. Texidor stated that other states have published public use files; OHS will pursue a learning model with MN and CO to learn how each have created and deployed public use files, and with OPM on performing a feasibility analysis of using the CT Open Data Portal for the public use files.
- Mr. Texidor presented feedback provided on collection of pharmacy rebate data; and indicated that OHS will be evaluating the MA model for collection.
- Mr. Texidor presented feedback provided on leveraging Connie resources for the APCD. He noted that whereas the two programs are administered by OHS, the APCD and Connie programs are two separate efforts. Mr. Texidor indicated that he would reach out to the stakeholder to better understand the recommendations.
- An overview of the internal process undertaken to prioritize initiatives, which included categorizing the activities into rails, was provided.

Mr. Sajnani commented on the proposal for future availability of a public use file. Mr. Sajnani acknowledged that a variety of privacy and patient constituents have raised some concerns around this concept. Mr. Sajnani provided clarification on the status of the initiative, stating that consideration and evaluation by this group and other stakeholders will be obtained to gauge if this can be done and if on balance, it would be the right thing to do. Mr. Texidor further clarified that the initiatives described are proposals; a project plan is not to be developed, and there remains additional work.

Mr. Gaul inquired about the number of vacancies across APCD councils, and whether staff is seeking support from the advisory group. Dr. Checko stated in the chatroom that the DRC has a vacancy for a physician and attorney. Ms. Tibor stated a total of 6-7 vacancies exist across the two groups and any support or recommendations by members in filling the vacancies would be helpful. Staff will provide the total number of vacancies across councils.

- A further presentation was made on the internal development of Rails 1-3. OHS prioritized the proposals based on three factors: 1) resources, 2) processes, and 3) time. Mr. Sajnani mentioned that the initiatives are proposals. Initiatives included in Rail 1 are shorter-term projects whereas Rail 3 would be longer term and the knowledge base would need to be built. Staff would like to target two priorities from the total initiatives.
- An overview of five proposed data analyses and/or visualization initiatives that can be completed in 2023 based on current resources including knowledge base. A total of 10 had been prioritized to 5.

Mr. Gaul inquired about the process by which topics are identified/prioritized by OHS. Conversation ensued with OHS staff providing rationale/background. Mr. Texidor stated that a survey tool would be developed to include the five analyses and/or visualizations for ordering, and staff will look to execute on the two most prevalent. It was agreed to include 1-2 sentences for context for each of the initiatives as part of the survey.

5.	**Data Submission Guide Update**	**Adrian Texidor, OHS**	**1:55 PM**

Mr. Texidor presented an update on activities related to the publishing of the updated Dats Submission Guide (DSG). Members approved the changes to the DSG during a special meeting. Currently, staff is in the process of initiating a 30-day public comment period which is expected to begin the following week. If the feedback results in changes made to the DSG, members will be asked to approve a modified DSG. If the feedback results in no changes to the DSG, a final version will be published.

At this time, a roll call was conducted, and a quorum established. Mr. Sajnani then requested a combined motion to approve the February 9, 2023, and April 26, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was made (Doolittle) and seconded (Girlamo). There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

6.	**APCD Projects**	**Adrian Texidor & Olga Armah, OHS**	**2:00 PM**

Mr. Texidor presented a status on two data visualizations produced by OHS:
- <u>Cost Estimator</u> – the cost estimator will be published at some point during the 3rd quarter 2023. It is a visualization of the top 25 inpatient and outpatient services in CT. Mr. Texidor stated that small focus groups will be held, and staff would like to preview the tool to members to receive feedback once it is ready. Members should look for a future email on this topic.
- <u>APCD Snapshot</u> – the visual snapshot provides an overview of the data available in the CT-APCD; the snapshot has gone live, and members received a demo. Mr. Texidor stated that the link to the snapshot will be sent to members. The snapshot can be found here: https://portal.ct.gov/healthscorect/apcd-snapshot?language=en_US

Ms. Armah presented an update on the following APCD projects:
- <u>Statewide Facilities Plan Preliminary Report</u> – OHS is required to release a statewide facilities plan, and equipment plan. A preliminary report has been prepared by OHS contractor, Altarum, and is currently under review by OHS. Results will be shared once final.
- Studies
  - <u>Telehealth</u> – UCONN is under contract with OHS to conduct the study which began last year. An extension was provided, and the work continues.
  - <u>Behavioral Health Parity</u> – the data has not been released as of the date of this meeting; this is in the contracting stage with Acumen, the consulting firm using the APCD for the study which OHS was authorized to carry out in the last legislative session.
  - <u>Hospital Community Benefits</u> – last year's session authorized OHS to release a limited data set to the hospitals for reporting of their community benefits; the data has not been released to date; OHS continues to undergo the process of determining what information needs to be provided by hospitals prior to releasing data, and the contents of the DUA to be executed before the data release….
- <u>Cost Growth Benchmark</u> – started as the Governor's Executive Order No. 5 requiring OHS to investigate the rising cost of healthcare.
  - The first report has been released. Highlights of the report will be shared in August.
  - OHS is holding a public hearing targeted for June 28th.
  - APCD data is being used for several purposes:
    - to help determine which providers are driving the increases – these providers will be invited to join the hearing;
    - to support any mitigation efforts/strategies identified by the Cost Growth Benchmark Steering Committee, to determine which strategies OHS and the state can implement to slow down the increase; and
    - to identify any unintended consequences from this initiative.
  - The first report may be found here: https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/Services/Cost-Growth-Quality-Benchmarks-Primary-Care-Target

11.	**Health Information Technology Advisory Council Update**	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO**	**2:20 PM**
	Mr. Sajnani presented an update on key activities of the HITAC: • As of May 3, 2023, Connie has been operational for two years. • OHS is in receipt of communications sharing broad concerns from certain provider organizations impacted by the mandate to connect with Connie, and Mr. Sajnani provided an overview of the actions being taken to work through the issues identified. • A presentation was given, stakeholder meetings held, and very preliminary efforts made regarding solutions for supporting Community Based Organizations with a single aggregator for E-referrals. Presently 211, Unite Us, Findhelp, and now Connie, offer E-referral services. Preliminary efforts are also being made to develop a secure SDoH repository with the appropriate consent. • The HITAC will discuss HIE regulations in its upcoming meeting.		
12.	**APCD Updates**		**2:30 PM**
	Mr. Texidor provided an update on payer source, claim type, and years available of data currently in the APCD. • The APCD includes commercial and Medicaid data up to December 2022. • Medicare data is available through 2019 for eligibility/enrollment data, and through 2018 for medical and pharmacy claims. • 2020 and 2021 Medicare data for pharmacy and medical has become available and OHS is undergoing the annual DUA update process to secure the data. • Dental claims collection will begin in 2023. Consideration is being given to limiting collection to three years of historical data.		
13.	**APCD Data Release Committee Report**	**Adrian Texidor, OHS**	**2:35 PM**
	Mr. Texidor announced that there are no new data applications to report. The group plans to have its regularly scheduled meeting in June to discuss the strategic proposals.		
14.	**Wrap Up & Adjournment**	**Sumit Sajnani, HITO**	**2:37 PM**
	Mr. Sajnani requested a motion to adjourn. A motion was made (Doolittle) and seconded (Girlamo). Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:37 PM.		

Upcoming Meeting: August 10, 2023

All meeting information and materials can be found at
https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/HIT-Work-Groups/Health-IT- [Advisory-Council](https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/HIT-Work-Groups/Health-IT-Advisory-Council)