April 2022 eNews

Welcome to the Office of Health Information Technology (IT) eNewsletter! Here you will find updates on health IT in Oregon and at the federal level. If there are specific items you would like to see in this newsletter, please send ideas to HITOC.INFO@dhsoha.state.or.us.

State Policy

Oregon 2022 Legislative Session

The 2022 Oregon Legislative Session ended March 4. While this was an exceptionally busy short session for health topics, one bill directly impacts the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Office of Health IT's current work:

- **House Bill 4150:** Requires the Health Information Technology Council (HITOC), with OHA staff support, to convene the Community Information Exchange (CIE) Workgroup to explore options to accelerate, support and improve secure, statewide CIEs. The bill requires HITOC to submit a draft report to the interim committees of health and human services by 9/15/2022 and a final report by 1/31/2023 on findings and recommendations for legislative changes, if any.

A complete report on bills and budget items expected to most significantly impact the health of Oregonians and the work of OHA is available here.

OHA Medicaid Waiver 1115 Demonstration Waiver

The OHA submitted the Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver final application on 2/18/2022. For more information, see the Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver Application webpage.

Updating Oregon's Strategic Plan for Health IT

HITOC is engaged in reviewing and updating Oregon's Strategic Plan for Health IT, and will be looking to identify strategies to ensure that health IT can support Oregon's health system transformation and goals to eliminate health inequities by 2030. There will be many opportunities to get involved in the strategic planning process over the next year. If you have thoughts to share with HITOC please email HITOC.INFO @dhsoha.state.or.us. HITOC meetings are open to the public, and public comment is always welcome at the meeting, in workgroups, or in writing at any time. For more information, please see the meetings page.

New Health Information Exchange Workgroup

At their April meeting, HITOC will review a draft charter and membership slate for a new Health Information Exchange (HIE) Workgroup to recommend strategies to accelerate, support, and improve HIE across the state. The HIE Workgroup will work to advance health equity in Oregon through health information technology and will bring together individuals representing Oregon's diverse landscape of health care and community partners, specifically including those serving communities who face health inequities. Workgroup recommendations will inform HITOC's Health IT Strategic Plan for Oregon and OHA's efforts. Meetings will be open to the public and available virtually.

- See the goals and full scope in the [draft HIE Workgroup Charter](#).
- For more information on HIE please visit the [OHA HIE Workgroup Website](#).

Community Information Exchange Workgroup

HITOC chartered a [CIE Workgroup](#) to recommend strategies to accelerate, support, and improve CIE across the state. Members represent a broad array of roles and backgrounds within Oregon's diverse landscape of health care, social service partners, and communities that are impacted by development in this area. Workgroup recommendations will inform HITOC's Health IT Strategic Plan for Oregon and OHA efforts. This work aligns with House Bill 4150 that passed earlier this year (see the State Policy section below for details).

The CIE Workgroup kicked off on March 15, 2022. Meeting topics included the purpose of the CIE Workgroup and connections with HITOC and HB 4150. The CIE Workgroup will meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month throughout 2022. [Meetings](#) are open to the public and available virtually. Please see the [CIE Workgroup website](#) for details and below for upcoming events.

HITOC Education Sessions:

OHA has held a series of education sessions for HITOC and members of the public to orient to key topics that will come up in the HITOC strategic plan work. These sessions are informational only. They are optional for HITOC members, and no official HITOC action (deliberation or decisions) will be made.

March Education Session: Federal Interoperability Final Rules

On March 17th HITOC held an education session on federal interoperability rules and how they are changing the health IT landscape. The one-hour webinar included a high-level overview of the rules and included time for Q&A about their impact. The two rules are:

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [Interoperability and Patient Access Final Rule](#) focuses on patient access to electronic health information (EHI) and interoperability among providers, payers and patients.
- The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) [21st Century Cures Act (Cures Act) Final Rule](#) focuses on health IT certification, which applies to health IT developers; and policy guidance on what does not constitute information blocking, which applies to healthcare providers, health IT developers, and health information exchanges/networks.

You can view the [session](#) and [slides](#) on [HITOC's meetings page](#). The three previous education sessions on HIE Basics, Oregon's HIE Programs, and Oregon's HIT Programs can be viewed [here](#).

HITOC's April Meeting

HITOC's next meeting is Thursday, [April 7th](#) from 12:30-3:30. HITOC members will review the [proposed HIE Workgroup charter](#) and membership slate, vote on a proposed vision statement for the Strategic Plan, hear from Representative Maxine Dexter on [House Bill 4150](#), learn about potential strategies and legislative actions, and begin revising goals for the Strategic Plan. The CIE Workgroup liaisons will also give an update on their progress.

Highlights from HITAG's March Meeting

The CCO Health IT Advisory Group (HITAG) met on [March 10th](#). HITAG includes health IT representatives from each CCO. The meeting included updates from the Office of Health IT, discussion of the [CCO 2022 Updated HIT Roadmap Template](#), [2022 CCO HIT Data Reporting Guidance](#), and a [summary of CCO 2021 efforts](#) to support HIE for care coordination and hospital event notifications, including presentations from several CCOs on their work in this area.

Federal Policy

Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement

ONC and the Sequoia Project, the Recognized Coordinating Entity (RCE), recently announced the publication of the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA), marking the beginning of the implementation phase. Also available is the TEFCA Health Level Seven (HL7) Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resource (FHIR) Roadmap, which outlines how TEFCA will accelerate the adoption of FHIR-based exchange across the industry.

The RCE will host a series of webinars to help those interested in TEFCA understand how it works. [Visit the RCE's webpage](#) to learn more, find current resources, and register for upcoming webinars. Learn more from ONC [here](#).

New USCDI v3 and Standards Bulletin Released

The latest Standards Bulletin is here and has everything you need to know about the new Draft United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) v3, including 20 new data elements and 2 new data classes to advance health IT for improved care, reduced inequities, and stronger public health reporting.

ONC is also seeking feedback on which data classes and elements should be included in the final USCDI v3. Public feedback accepted until April 30, 2022. ONC plans to release the final USCDI v3 this summer. Read the [draft USCDI v3](#) and [Standards Bulletin](#).

Upcoming Events: OHA Health IT Meetings/Events

- April 7th: [HITOC](#)
  - Meeting topics will include discussing the HIE Workgroup draft charter and membership slate, hearing updates on the CIE Workgroup, outcomes of the 2022 legislative session, and finalizing the Strategic Plan for Health IT vision statement. HITOC meetings are open to the public, and public comment is always welcome either at the meeting or in writing at any time (send to: HITOC.INFO@dhsoha.state.or.us). For more information, please see the [website](#).
- April 19th: [CIE Workgroup](#) [monthly meeting](#)
  - At this meeting the CIE Workgroup will reflect on how CIE can support health equity and begin looking at potential legislative concept areas.

Want to weigh in on OHA's Health IT work? How to make public comment:

OHA's Health IT committee and workgroup meetings (i.e., HITOC, CIE Workgroup, HIE Workgroup, HITAG) are open to the public, and public comment is always welcome at the meeting during the

specified time or in writing at any time. Public comment is an important part of OHA's committee work and is an opportunity for members of the public to provide input and feedback to the Committee or Workgroup.

Meetings: Typically, the public comment period is held at the end of each meeting. There may occasionally be more than one comment period. Members of the public are asked to comment or post in the chat only during this period, and to keep verbal comments to about 2 minutes. The public comment period is held solely for the public to share their thoughts with the Committee or Workgroup. Committee members are unlikely to ask questions or respond to public comment directly but give consideration to public comments during committee work. If you know before the meeting that you'd like to provide public comment, you can email HITOC.INFO@dhsoha.state.or.us to sign up. If you'd like to provide public comment during the meeting, you can message one of the hosts to sign-up. If you are unable to message, please speak up during the open public comment period.

Written Comment: You can also send written public comment to HITOC.INFO@dhsoha.state.or.us at any time (please specify which group it is for – HITOC, CIE Workgroup, HIE Workgroup, or HITAG). Written comment is emailed out and posted as part of meeting materials.

Have questions about public comment? We want to hear from you! Please email HITOC.INFO @dhsoha.state.or.us.