



HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2024 | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

ATTENDANCE

By Electronic Device:

Joseph Quaranta, Co-Chair	Sandra Czunas (OSC)	Cassandra Murphy
Sumit Sajnani, HITO, Co-Chair	Adam Prizio (OHA)	Susan Israel
Nicole Taylor (DCF)	Elizabeth Taylor (DMHAS)	Mark Gildea
Byron Kennedy (DOC)	David Fusco	Michael Crain
Gary Archambault (DPH)	Geoffrey Hook	Thomas Woodruff
Mark Raymond, CIO	Jaime Rodriguez	Rebekah McLearn (AHCT)
Cara Passaro (OAG)	Alan Kaye	Robert Plant
Jos Scalora (DSS)	Dina Berlyn	

In Person:

N/A

Absent:

Jaime Rodriguez	Patrick Charmel	Nicole Taylor (DCF)
Patricia Checko		

Other Participants:

Tyra Anne Peluso, OHS	Jenn Searls, Connie	Amanda Crociata, Connie
Amy Tibor, OHS	Heidi Wilson, Connie	

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

The HITAC met virtually on Thursday, November 21, 2024. Chair Quaranta welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Roll call determined a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments made.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 17, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

Chair Quaranta requested a motion to approve the October 17, 2024, minutes. A motion was made (M. Raymond) and seconded (C. Passaro). The minutes were approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF 2025 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

Chair Quaranta requested a motion to approve the 2025 regular meeting schedule. He noted an amendment to the June date from Jun 19 to Jun 26 due to the holiday. A motion was made (B. Kennedy) and seconded (C. Passaro). The schedule was approved unanimously.

CONNIE UPDATE (Jenn Searls, Connie)

Jenn shared a presentation update on key Connie activities, highlights included:

- Technical integrations update: 2 additional EHR hubs are now live and 3 are in progress. Jenn shared notable integrations that have been completed which include Trinity Health of New England hospitals, practices, and community connect practices. Hartford HealthCare and Griffin Health are now live with image exchange; CVS Omnicare and CVS Minute Clinics data is also live.



- Outreach and engagement update.
- Overview of service usage statistics: Jenn highlighted that repeat users have grown by 207% from Jan '24 – Oct '24.

The floor was opened for comments and Council members asked a variety of questions. The full recording, including Jenn's presentation and all dialogue can be accessed here: [Connie update to HITAC November 2024](#)

Heidi Wilson shared Connie projects for FY25, including:

- A patient portal service enhancement that enables patients to consent to the sharing of their SUD data with providers if in treatment.
- Several provider portal service enhancements.
- Empanelment and encounter alert enhancements.
- State agency projects including with DSS and DPH. Thomas Woodruff described a project between Connie and the OSC.

Heidi shared that the patient portal is live and in the piloting phase; the portal is being piloted with the Connie Patient and Family Advisory Committee. Heidi described recent meetings of the group and next steps including a focus on patient outreach and engagement.

CONNIE PATIENT PORTAL UPDATE & DEMO (Heidi Wilson, Connie)

Heidi shared a demo of the Connie patient portal. The full demo can be viewed here at approximately 00:36: [patient portal demo recording](#). Connie anticipates the portal going live for all residents after the pilot in January.

The floor was opened for questions. A discussion on the source of pharmacy information occurred, including consolidation of medications and ability to organize data by provider.

Heidi shared that the portal is available for free for any CT resident. She described Connie's outreach strategy and targeted audience which includes organizations with existing credibility and relationships with CT residents to communicate the availability and benefits of the portal. The goal is that by Oct 1, 2025, Connie's patient portal will have 100 users and 50 repeat users. Rebekah McLearn will share a resource connection from Access Health CT with Heidi to support outreach efforts.

CONNIE POPULATION EXPLORER UPDATE & DEMO (Amanda Crociata, Connie)

Amanda shared a demo of the Population Explorer, a new care management tool offered by Connie. Population Explorer provides encounter notifications when a patient has had an admission, discharge, or transfer from a hospital ED visit; shows observation stays and outpatient visits as well. The tool has a variety of functionalities demonstrated by Amanda; her demo begins at approximately 01:10: [Population Explorer Demo](#)

Dr. Quaranta asked about processes to engage current users about new functionalities that become available. Amanda shared that Connie conducts training through a variety of educational mechanisms such as quarterly webinars, including targeted webinars, that share new features.

HIE REGULATIONS UPDATE (Tyra Anne Peluso, OHS)

Tyra shared a presentation on key activities and progress towards development of regulations for the HIE, specifically related to the activities of the PA 24-19 Recommendations Workgroup, key highlights included:



- OHS has taken a collaborative approach in developing HIE regs.
- The PA 24-19 Workgroup held its first meeting in August and concluded November 20th.
- Significant feedback was gathered throughout the sessions and OHS is now shifting its focus towards drafting regulations.
- Next steps include OHS filing a legislative report of recommendations by the group to the CGA; OHS is on schedule to meet the Jan 1, 2025, deadline.
- OHS will communicate this report to both HITAC and the HIE Regulatory Advisory Subcommittee.
- It is anticipated draft regulations for public comment will be shared sometime in Q2 of 2025. The date is tentative and subject to change.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There were no announcements made. Chair Quaranta requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. There were no objections and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm.

Statutory Citation: [CGS §17b-59f](#)

UPCOMING MEETING:

December 19, 2024

All HITAC Meeting Material & Information is published on the [OHS Website](#)