

# March 2023 eNews

Welcome to the Office of Health Information Technology (IT) & Analytics Infrastructure eNewsletter! Here you will find updates on health IT in Oregon and at the federal level. For a deeper dive into health IT in Oregon check out the [Policy and Program Updates](#). If there are specific items you would like to see in this newsletter, please send ideas to [HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov).

## HITOC

### **Final Report Submitted to the Legislature: Recommendations Supporting Statewide Community Information Exchange (CIE)**

We are excited to share the [House Bill \(HB\) 4150 Final Report: Supporting Statewide CIE](#) was submitted to the legislature on January 31!

The Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC) chartered the [CIE Workgroup](#), as required by HB 4150 (2022), to provide recommendations on strategies to accelerate, support, and improve statewide CIE in Oregon. The report reflects the CIE Workgroup's recommendations, perspectives from community-based organization (CBO) interviews and survey responses, and HITOC comment.

Find the [final report](#), [executive summary](#), and other information on [OHA's CIE website](#). You can also see a presentation staff made to the Oregon Health Policy Board on the recommendations [here](#).

For questions regarding the report please contact Hope Peskin-Shepherd, CIE Lead Policy Analyst, at [Hope.Peskin-Shepherd@dhssoha.state.or.us](mailto:Hope.Peskin-Shepherd@dhssoha.state.or.us). Thank you to the CIE Workgroup and to HITOC for their work in developing these recommendations!

### **February Meeting**

The Health IT Oversight Council (HITOC) [met on February 2](#) to hear a presentation on the [1115 Medicaid Waiver](#) and engage a panel of HITOC members on potential impacts to their organizations. Members also reviewed the plan for engaging community in HITOC's Strategic Plan Update, received an update on the work from the Health Information Exchange (HIE) Workgroup, discussed the final House Bill 4150 report, and assessed legislative proposals related to health IT.

### **April Meeting**

HITOC will meet on [April 6](#) to hear about privacy changes at the federal level from guest speaker Mark Savage, the Managing Director, Digital Health Strategy & Policy, at Savage & Savage LLC and Social Determinants of Health Policy Advisor at the Gravity Project, and to discuss initial concepts from the HIE Workgroup. Members will also hear an update on community engagement and legislative bills related to health IT.

### **Office Name Change**

The Office of Health IT has now become the Office of Health IT & Analytics Infrastructure, led by Susan Otter. The office includes three groups: the Health IT Policy & Programs team, the Medicaid Analytics and Data Integration team, and the Business Intelligence, REALD and SOGI Health Analytics teams. This office combines health IT, data systems, and analytics infrastructure work under one reporting structure, and works closely with the Office of Health Analytics and other partners across OHA.

## Federal Highlights

## Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) Announcement

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) and the Sequoia Project, the Recognized Coordinating Entity (RCE), recently announced the first set of networks to be approved to implement TEFCA as prospective Qualified Health Information Networks (QHINs). These organizations volunteered to meet the TEFCA eligibility requirements, terms and conditions of TEFCA participation, and commitment to a 12-month go-live timeline. The first recognized QHINs are:

- CommonWell Health Alliance
- eHealth Exchange
- Epic TEFCA Interoperability Services
- Health Gorilla
- Kno2, and
- KONZA

The goal of TEFCA is to advance interoperability at scale for patients, health care providers, hospitals, public health agencies, health insurers, and other authorized health care stakeholders. Strong privacy and security protections are required of QHINs and their expanded connectivity will help improve the quality, safety, affordability, efficiency, and equitability of health care across the country.

Learn more about the prospective QHINs on the [RCE's website](#), watch the [TEFCA Recognition Event](#), and learn more about TEFCA from [ONC](#).

## Upcoming Events: OHA Health IT Meetings/Events

- March 17, 2023, 9:00-12:00: [HIE Workgroup monthly meeting](#)
- April 6, 2023, 12:30-3:30: [HITOC Meeting](#)
- April 14, 2023, 9:00-12:00: [HIE Workgroup monthly meeting](#)
- April 27, 2023, 1:00-4:00: CCO [HIT Advisory Group \(HITAG\) quarterly meeting](#)

## 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, 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@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov) 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@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov) at any time. To be included in the materials a meeting please submit the comment no less than 2 business days before the intended meeting. Please specify which group it is for – HITOC, 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@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov)