

Health Information Technology Oversight Council

**April
2010
Update**

About the Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC)

The Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC) was created by the passage of HB 2009 within the Oregon Health Authority. The Council is comprised of eleven individuals appointed by Governor Ted Kulongoski, and is charged with developing a statewide strategic plan for electronic health information exchange, coordinating public and private efforts to increase adoption of electronic health records, setting technology standards, ensuring privacy and security controls, and creating a sustainable business plan to support meaningful use of health information technology to lower costs and improve quality of care.

[HITOC Members](#)

Upcoming HITOC Meetings:

Thursday, May 6, 2010
10:00am - 5:00pm
Oregon State Library, Room 103
250 Winter Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Thursday, June 3, 2010
1:00pm - 5:00pm
Oregon State Library, Room 103
250 Winter Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Thursday, June 17, 2010
1:00pm - 5:00pm
Location to be determined

Upcoming Workgroup Meetings:

April 29
1:00 pm - 5:00pm
Clackamas Community College
Wilsonville Training Center
Rooms 111-112
29353 SW Town Center Loop E.
Wilsonville, Oregon 97070

HIO Stakeholder Forum

The HITOC HIO Stakeholder Forum held on Thursday, April 15 provided crucial feedback for Oregon's HIE Strategic and Operational Planning. Over 60 people representing 40 organizations were in attendance, including Jefferson HIE/Asante, PeaceHealth, Gorge Connect, OCHIN, SACHIE, and Providence/Portland Metro HIE, who gave presentations on their current HIE activities.

In the report back from the discussion session, a few key pieces of feedback were shared by the group, including:

1. The difficulty and need to demonstrate the value of HIE to providers, and the need to focus on more than the federal incentives;
2. The need to continue and increase coordination efforts among local HIOs, to avoid their developing in divergent/incompatible directions;
3. A concern about the ability to understand and abide by HIPAA as it applies to HIE;
4. Ideas about how HITOC could best serve local HIOs moving forward, including: providing tools to HIOs to facilitate exchange; setting standards and providing education; and making sure the appropriate legislation and policies are in place to facilitate HIE;
5. A desire to see coordination with those in workforce development so they can stay ahead of the curve in terms of the specific jobs and skill sets that are in demand;
6. The importance of incorporating the HIE "gap" areas into the planning process, and how best to fill those gaps.

Thank you to all the organizations and representatives who participated in the Forum and provided the dialogue, information, and critical feedback needed as we move forward in drafting the State HIE Plan. If your organization wasn't able to attend, there will be future opportunities to provide input.

HIE Privacy and Security Update

Privacy and Security are key issues to successful statewide HIE in Oregon, and planning for the Privacy and Security section of the Oregon HIE Strategic and Operational Plan is well under way. Building on prior Oregon HISPC (Health Information Security and Privacy Collaborative) work, the HITOC Planning Team has met with the HITOC Strategic Workgroup over the past two months to present information on, discuss, and receive input on key issues, including Consent, Accountability and Oversight, Security, and Inter-state agreements. HITOC is also planning a Privacy and Security Forum to discuss these issues with stakeholders on May 25 (from 9am-11am, at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland). HITOC is committed to having broad public participation in and feedback on the Privacy and Security plan, so that Oregonians have the utmost confidence in their statewide HIE.

What's Happening Around Oregon?

OHSU and PCC Receive HIT Grants

On April 2, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced grant awards totaling \$84 million to 16 universities and junior colleges across the country to support the training and development of more than 50,000 new health IT professionals. In Oregon, Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) and Portland Community College (PCC) were included in these American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant awards. These awards are part of the \$2 billion effort to achieve widespread meaningful use of health IT and move toward the national goal of an electronic health record for each person in the United States by 2014.

OHSU will be receiving \$5.8 million through two stimulus grants: The first grant is a \$3.1 million training grant to train 160 certificate and master's students in their informatics graduate program over the next three years. The second grant is for \$2.7 million to fund OHSU as one of five Curriculum Development Centers charged with developing curricula for identified community colleges to train students in informatics and health IT. In addition, OHSU was selected to be the National Training and Dissemination Center housing the curricula on a web site and training community college faculty in its use. This grant includes partnerships with Portland Community College (PCC), Mt. Hood Community College, Lane Community College, and Umpqua Community College.

PCC will also be receiving funding through the Community College Consortia Program, which provides assistance to five regional consortia of 70 community colleges across the country. PCC is part of the Bellevue College Consortia, and will receive \$625,000 to partner over the next two years with Mt. Hood, Lane, Umpqua, and Blue Mountain Community Colleges to train and place 300 health IT workers. Each college will create non-degree training programs that can be completed in six months or less.

In line with the intent of the Recovery Act, these grants will create jobs in Oregon by training people for key jobs in the health IT industry. These jobs will help support the adoption of electronic health records and the expansion of health information exchange in Oregon, providing additional resources to accelerate health reform efforts.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR: ONC Requests Participation and Public Input in Updating the Federal Health IT Strategic Plan

In an April 5, 2010 message, Dr. David Blumenthal, National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, underlined his office's responsibility for putting forward a vision for nationwide interoperable health IT. As part of the 2009 HITECH Act, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) is required to update the original [2008 Federal Health IT Strategic Plan](#). Blumenthal called for participation and broad involvement across the health care sector. Last week, the ONC posted a draft of the HIT Policy Committee Strategic Plan Workgroup's [Health IT Strategic Framework](#) for public review. Comments can be provided via the [FACA Blog](#).

The updated Federal Health IT Strategic Plan will outline objectives, milestones, and metrics related to health information exchange and associated privacy and security protections, electronic health record utilization, and will address the needs of underserved populations to reduce health disparities. It will primarily address the time period of 2011 through 2015 but also will lay the groundwork for continued innovation and progress beyond 2015. More information is available in Dr. Blumenthal's message on [Paving the Path to Progress with a Roadmap for Health IT](#).

Source: Minnesota e-Health Update for the Week of April 5, 2010

HITOC Stakeholder Webinar Friday, April 30, 2 – 3 pm

Each stakeholder webinar will include updates on the work being done by HITOC and the Strategic Workgroup. There will also be opportunities for stakeholder input, with a different focus for each webinar.

On April 30 we will be reviewing the input on Legal & Policy/Business & Operations and Financing.

Signup information will be posted on the HITOC website on the [Stakeholder Engagement and Webinar page](#).

Recent Articles of Interest

- [Consumers and Health Information Technology: A National Survey](#) (California Healthcare Foundation)
- [Unemployment Benefits Law Adjusts EHR Incentive Eligibility](#) (iHealthBeat)
- [Bill Would Expand Eligibility for 'Meaningful Use' Incentives](#) (iHealthBeat)
- [Blumenthal: Physicians should embrace health information technology](#) (HealthLeaders Media)

Contact Information

HITOC Director Carol Robinson can be reached at:
1225 Ferry Street, SE, 1st Floor Fax: 503-378-5511
Salem, OR 97301 Phone: 503-373-1817
Email: carol.robinson@state.or.us
Web: <http://www.oregon.gov/OHPPR/HITOC/index.shtml>