

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 and implementing 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 Member Photos & Bios](#)

Upcoming HITOC Meetings:

Thursday, October 7, 2010
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Portland State Office Building
Room 1B
800 NE Oregon St.
Portland, Oregon 97232

Thursday, November 4, 2010
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Portland State Office Building
Room 1A
800 NE Oregon St.
Portland, Oregon 97232

HITOC HIE Workgroups and HIO Executive Panel Launched in September

The final HIE Strategic and Operational Plans for Oregon were submitted to the Office of the National Coordinator of Health IT in August; now important implementation begins. As outlined in the Plans, three workgroups, (Legal and Policy, Technology, and Finance) have been formed to dive deeper into the operational details, providing HITOC with recommendations on key legal policies, a sustainable finance plan and technology standards and services. The appointments for each workgroup were approved at the September HITOC meeting, with membership representing a broad range of diversity and expertise. An initial orientation for the workgroups will be held on September 29, to provide the workgroup members with the expected process and deliverables for Phase 1 workgroup planning activity. A detailed work plan will be provided to the workgroup members during the orientation, with the following meetings slated for October and November:

Legal and Policy

- Oct. 12: Consent and Specially Protected Health Information: Background and Overview
- Oct. 20: Oregon's Consent Policy: Short and Long-Term Recommendations and Analysis
- Nov. 9: Accountability & Oversight: Privacy & Security Standards
- Nov. 17: Accountability & Oversight: Monitoring and Enforcement

Finance

- Oct. 19: Sustainability Goals and Timelines; Core and Potential HIE Services; Value Propositions; Other State Financing Examples; Financing Options/Issues
- Nov. 10: Prioritize HIE Services; Start-Up Financing; Service vs. Utility Financing
- Nov. 23: Draft Cost and Revenue Projections; Financing Options and Issues

Technology

- Oct. 13: Gather Feedback on HIE Core Services Requirements
- Nov. 18: Confirm HIE Core Services Requirements; Gather Feedback on Preliminary HIE Core Services Specifications
- Nov. 30: Confirm HIE Core Services Specifications

Workgroup meetings are open to the public, with meeting times, locations and materials posted to the HITOC website in advance of each meeting.

The Strategic Plan also outlined the creation of two advisory panels to provide input to HITOC as Phase 1 planning and implementation moves forward: a Consumer Advisory Panel and an HIO Executive Panel. The HIO Executive Panel will also have their first meeting on Sept. 29, in conjunction with the workgroup orientation.

****Applications for the Consumer Advisory Panel are still being accepted through September 24.*** For more information and an application, please click [here](#). The first meeting of the Consumer Advisory Panel will be held November 16.

OCHIN/O-HITEC Recognized in Report Released by Biden

Oregon's Regional Extension Center was recently featured in a report released on September 17 by Vice-President Biden on "100 Recovery Act Projects That Are Changing America" (to view the full report, click [here](#) - O-HITEC is project #72, on pages 20-21).

Background: OCHIN received American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding in the amount of \$13.2 million to serve as the state's Regional Extension Center (REC), and formed a new division - O-HITEC - to fulfill that role. The purpose of O-HITEC and RECs across the country is to assist providers in the adoption, upgrade, and implementation of electronic health records (EHRs). Vice-President Biden's report highlights O-HITEC and the other 99 projects as "some of the most innovative and effective projects nationwide that are not only putting people back to work now, but helping transform the American economy for years to come." The report also stated that "Oregon will serve as a model of how advanced use of health information technology can be leveraged to reduce costs and improve patient satisfaction and clinical outcomes."

HITOC Chair and Vice-Chair Take on New Professional Challenges

Steve Gordon and Rick Howard, who have served as Chair and Vice-Chair of HITOC, respectively, since its first meeting in October 2009, are both embarking on exciting new career paths. Steve Gordon, formerly Vice President and Chief Quality Officer for PeaceHealth-Oregon Region, has accepted a new position with PeaceHealth as System Senior Director of HITECH (Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act) Implementation.

Rick Howard, who has served as Chief Information Officer for Oregon's Department of Human Services, has accepted a position in the private sector with Gartner, a consulting firm specializing in technology research and business advice for global executives. Rick will be stepping down from his role as the Vice-Chair of HITOC as well. John Koreski has been named interim CIO of the Oregon Health Authority and Department of Human Services and will be attending HITOC meetings in that role until a replacement is named by the Governor and confirmed by the Oregon Senate, as required in statute. John has a lengthy resume, having served in CIO positions in Oregon state government prior to retirement.

Carol Robinson, State Coordinator for Health IT and Director of HITOC shared her thoughts on the transition ahead, "We're grateful to have had the dedicated and insightful service of Rick as Vice-Chair of HITOC over the past year. We wish him well in his new position and look forward to John's leadership during this important phase."

Contact Information

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Recent Articles of Interest

- [ONC Names Temporary Certification Bodies for 'Meaningful Use' Program](#) (*iHealthBeat*)
- [Report: E-Prescribing Increasing Among U.S. Health Care Workers](#) (*iHealthBeat*)
- [EHR market projected to double by 2012](#) (*Healthcare IT News*)