

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. It 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.

The Council is comprised of eleven individuals appointed by Governor Ted Kulongoski, who bring the diverse experience outlined by the legislation in health information technology as well as in health care delivery, policy and research. They represent consumer and business perspectives, public and private sectors, and the geographic and demographic differences of Oregon's health care providers and the patients they serve.

HITOC Members

Biographies and photos coming soon

Upcoming HITOC Meetings

Thursday, January 7, 2010

10:00 am – 5:00pm
Clackamas Community College
Wilsonville Training Center
Rooms 111-112
29353 SW Town Center Loop E.
Wilsonville, Oregon 97070

Thursday, February 4, 2010

1:00 pm – 5:00pm
Portland State Office Building 1A
800 NE Oregon St.
Portland, Oregon 97232

2010 Meeting Schedule

HITOC Announces Formation of HIE Strategic Planning Workgroup and Seeks Nominations

At its December meeting, the HITOC formed the HIE Strategic Planning Workgroup. This workgroup will assist the HITOC with the critical decision making involved in developing a strategic and operational plan for Health Information Exchange within Oregon, as required by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology Cooperative Agreement (due 7/15/2010).

The HITOC seeks qualified nominees for this workgroup. Members will include experts within the content areas of health information technology; business finance; business law; nonprofit governance; health information privacy and security; consumer interests; and governmental regulation. Expertise from both the public and private sectors will be represented.

Anyone interested in participating on this workgroup should review the information packet posted on the website and complete an application form. The nomination process for the HIE Strategic Planning Workgroup opened December 14, and will close at end of business on December 23, 2009.

For more information and an application form [click here](#).

HITOC Website Updated

We have reorganized and expanded the HITOC website to improve its value to you as a resource.

Take a look at the [Documents, Reports and Resources page](#).

Additional links have been added to currently available HIT/HIE federal funding opportunities, relevant websites and reports and documents of interest.

There is now a [HITOC Communications page](#) so you can quickly find important communications from HITOC such as the HIE Strategic Planning Workgroup Nomination packet that was posted yesterday, as well as past editions of the monthly update.

Recent Articles of Interest

- [Facebook's New Privacy Settings Spur Questions on Patient Data Control](#) (iHealthBeat)
- [HITECH Implementation on Schedule, According to HHS' Latest Agenda](#) (iHealthBeat)
- [Obama announcing \\$600 million for health \(including EHR adoption at community clinics\)](#) (Boston Globe)
- ["Beacon" communities must show HIT bonifides](#) (Government Health IT)

What's Happening Around Oregon?

Each month in the HITOC newsletter we hope to highlight Health Information Exchange (HIE) activities around Oregon, so we can all learn more about what is happening in different regions of our state. HITOC is committed to leveraging the existing activity in the state, and knowing about the work already in place or being planned will help inform all of us. This month we will look at recent planning efforts in the mid-Columbia Gorge area.

Gorge Health Connect

Local HIE stakeholders in Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Hood River Counties, centered around the Mid-Columbia Medical Center and provider practices in The Dalles, began meeting last summer to talk about establishing a regional Health Information Exchange in the mid-Columbia Gorge. Last week, key stakeholders agreed to move forward with the establishment of Gorge Health Connect, a public-private 501-c-3 entity with Board representation from Mid-Columbia Medical Center, Mid-Columbia Medical Group, Columbia River Women's Clinic, Mid-Columbia Surgical Specialists, La Clinica Del Carino (a designated Federally Qualified Health Center and a Community and Migrant Health Center,) North Central Public Health (Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam Counties), and Hood River Public Health. The Gorge Health Connect Mission Statement is to improve the consumer experience, enhance provider and payer efficiency, and improve clinical outcomes via a secure, apolitical, value-based information exchange solution.

Funding Opportunities from the ONC

There are multiple opportunities for funding available from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology currently available. Here is a brief synopsis of what's out there right now:

- [Beacon Community Cooperative Agreement Program \(due 2/1/10\)](#): This program will provide funding to communities to build and strengthen their health information technology (health IT) infrastructure and exchange capabilities to demonstrate the vision of meaningful health IT.
- [Curriculum Development Centers \(due 1/14/10\)](#): This funding opportunity, one component of the workforce program, will provide \$10 million in grants to institutions of higher education (or consortia thereof) to support health information technology (health IT) curriculum development.
- [Community College Consortia to Educate Health Information Technology Professionals \(due 1/22/10\)](#): This program seeks to rapidly create health IT education and training programs at Community Colleges or expand existing programs. Community colleges funded under this initiative will establish intensive, non-degree training programs that can be completed in six months or less.
- [Health Information Technology Extension Program \(Regional Extension Centers\) \(due 11/3/09, 12/22/09\)](#): This program provides grants for the establishment of Health Information Technology Regional Extension Centers that will offer technical assistance, guidance and information on best practices to support and accelerate health care providers' efforts to become meaningful users of Electronic Health Records (EHRs).

Contact Information

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