

Health Information Technology Oversight Council

February 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, March 4, 2010

1:00pm-5:00pm

Lane Community College
Center for Meeting and Learning
4000 E. 30th Ave. Building 19
Eugene, OR 97405

Thursday, April 1, 2010

1:00 pm – 5:00pm

Portland State Office Building 1A
800 NE Oregon St.
Portland, Oregon 97232

[2010 Meeting Schedule](#)

Upcoming Workgroup Meetings

Thursday, February 25, 2010

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Oregon State Library
250 Winter St. NE Room 103
Salem, OR 97301

Thursday, March 11, 2010

1:00 pm-5:00 pm

Dept of Consumer & Business
Services
350 Winter St NE Rm F

Oregon Receives HITECH Funding from ONC

On February 12, the State of Oregon was one of 40 states and state-designated entities notified that they had received funding through the State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program (HIE.) This funding was authorized by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act.

This funding announcement was the result of the application to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) for an \$8.58 million cooperative agreement grant program, submitted on October 15, 2009 by the Oregon Office of Health Policy & Research, on behalf of Governor Ted Kulongoski and the eleven members of HITOC. With the cooperative agreement now approved, funding will help support a thorough and transparent process to plan for and develop sustainable statewide health information exchange (HIE) with the support of both public and private stakeholders across Oregon.

For more information see Advancing Health Information Exchange by Dr. David Blumenthal on page 2 and the HHS [press release](#) announcing the awards.

REC Award Announced

OCHIN, Inc. and OHSU partnered on the proposal for Oregon's Regional Extension Center (REC) under the Health Information Technology Extension Program (REC), bringing an additional \$13.2 million to the state for the advancement of health information exchange. The role of the REC is to support providers in becoming meaningful users of electronic health records. This is a critical component of the work necessary to make sure that providers are eligible for the Medicaid and Medicare meaningful use incentive payments. HITOC will be working closely with the REC to ensure coordination and avoid duplication of effort. Beginning in March, the REC will provide a monthly update on activities as part of HITOC's monthly meetings.

First HITOC Stakeholder Webinar Friday, February 26, 2 – 3 pm

A key component of HITOC's commitment to two-way communication with stakeholders launches February 26 with the first in a series of monthly webinars. Each 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 each month. Input gathered during the February 26th webinar will focus on how HIE activities in Oregon should be governed.

Signup information will be posted on the HITOC website by February 19.

Recent Articles of Interest

- [Federal Officials Tout Importance of Health IT Adoption](#) iHealthBeat
- [Healthcare CIOs Get New Certification](#) Information Week
- [Obama's Budget Plan Includes \\$110M for Health IT Initiatives](#) iHealthBeat
- [Providers Look to Scribes](#) iHealthBeat

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 cover SSA contracts announced this month.

Three Oregon Organizations Receive Contracts from SSA to Expand HIE

The Social Security Administration awarded \$17.4 million in contracts on February 1, 2010 to 15 health information networks, providers and health IT firms across the country, including three from Oregon. Douglas County Individual Practice Association (DCIPA) of Roseburg was awarded \$502,000, Oregon Community Health Information Network (OCHIN) of Portland was awarded \$284,000, and Bay Area Hospital was part of a multi-organizational contract with Medicity. The contract awards were funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

These contracts will build on work begun three years ago when the SSA started testing an application with MedVirginia to electronically access the health records of disability applicants directly from local providers, sort them through a state health information exchange and provide them to SSA adjudicators, which has shortened the processing time so that some disability decisions are now made in days instead of weeks or months. "The use of health IT will dramatically improve the speed, accuracy, and efficiency of this process, reducing the cost of making a disability decision for both the medical community and the American taxpayer," Michael Astrue, SSA's commissioner, said in announcing the awards.

Advancing Health Information Exchange

A Message from Dr. David Blumenthal, National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

February 12, 2010

Today we announce the first cooperative agreement awards authorized by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act. It marks a major milestone in our journey towards nationwide adoption and meaningful use of health information technology (health IT). One set of awards provides \$386 million to 40 States and qualified State-Designated Entities to rapidly build capacity for exchanging health information across the health care system both within and between states through the [State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program](#). The other awards provide \$375 million to create 32 [Regional Extension Centers \(RECs\)](#), that will support the efforts of health professionals, starting with priority primary care providers, to become meaningful users of electronic health records (EHRs). Additional awards will be made in both programs over the coming weeks. Together, these programs will help modernize the use of health information, improving the quality and efficiency of care for all Americans.

As part of the [State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program](#), states will play a leadership role in achieving HIE to meet health reform goals. The funds awarded will be used to establish and implement plans for statewide HIE by creating the appropriate governance, policies, and technical services required to support HIE. Developing this state-level capability will help us break down the current barriers to HIE and help providers to qualify for Medicare and Medicaid incentives under the HITECH Act. The awards will also strongly encourage states to consider participating in the Nationwide Health Information Network as an approach to HIE. This would create a pathway toward seamless, nationwide health information exchange.

While the State HIE awards will strengthen capacity for health information exchange, the [Health Information Technology Extension Program](#) awards will establish RECs to deliver direct outreach, education, and technical assistance services to health care providers in their regions. Each REC will focus most intensively on the physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners who work as part of individual and small group primary care practices, as well as those who dedicate themselves to providing health care to the underserved. Primary care providers in small practices provide the great majority of such services in the U.S. but have limited resources to implement, meaningfully use, and maintain EHR systems. On-site technical assistance for these priority primary care providers will be a key service offered by the RECs. RECs will assist providers who have not adopted EHRs, as well as those who have but need help progressing to meaningful use. Regional extension centers will also help providers keep health information private and secure.

The Health Information Technology Extension Program and the State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program are critical components to the end of a nation-wide interoperable, private and secure electronic health information system. I look forward to working in collaboration with each state and REC as they establish their programs, begin work within their communities, and promote the transformation of our health care system. I applaud each awarded entity for its dedication to the mission of improving the quality of health care and for the leadership and guidance it will provide.

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

Web: www.oregon.gov/OHPPR/HITOC

Email: carol.robinson@state.or.us