Office of Health Information Technology

The Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT) serves as a partner and resource for both state programs and other public and private users of HIT. OHIT provides effective HIT policies, programs and partnerships that support improved health for all Oregonians.

HITOC Welcomes New Members

The Health Information Oversight Council (HITOC) is pleased to announce the appointment of six new members, as approved by the Oregon Health Policy Board on December 4, 2018. The new members increase diversity on HITOC and expand HITOC's expertise in behavioral health, oral health, social determinants of health, health literacy, cultural competency, long-term services and supports, consumer perspectives, and primary care. Their terms will begin on January 1. Welcome to Bill Bard, Kacy Burgess, Dr. Jennifer Clemens, Janet Hamilton, Dr. Anna Jimenez, and Bonnie Thompson!

See the 2019 roster >

Behavioral Health HIT Workgroup Report to HITOC

In 2017, the Office of Health Information Technology conducted a Behavioral Health HIT Scan to gain a better understanding of the HIT/HIE landscape among behavioral health organizations, including their adoption and use of electronic health records (EHRs) and health information exchange (HIE). In 2018, HITOC chartered the Behavioral Health HIT Workgroup to prioritize the recommendations identified in the Behavioral Health HIT Scan report. During the December 2018 HITOC meeting, OHA staff and Workgroup members presented its work.

The top Workgroup recommendations include:

1) Support behavioral health agencies in adopting a sufficient EHR,
2) Continue existing work in support of health information exchange and bolster with additional strategies such as information sharing guidance,
3) Support an improved understanding of HIT and HIE by providing education and creating shared learning opportunities, and
4) Modernize the state reporting systems to allow for improved interoperability.

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Behavioral Health HIT Workgroup Report to HITOC

The Workgroup's Report supports OHA's current efforts and provides additional recommended actions. The work informs HITOC about the behavioral health system's ongoing foundational needs. The Workgroup will continue meeting in 2019 to further develop its recommendations and inform OHA's HIT/HIE efforts impacting behavioral health.

For more information, please visit our website >

Federal Policy Update and Opportunity for Public Comment: the SUPPORT Act and Reducing Provider Burden

The Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act was signed into law in October. The new law aims to address the opioid epidemic, including reducing the supply of opioids, and expanding access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services. The law includes provisions that may support behavioral health providers use of EHRs, improve telehealth, and increase effective use of state Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) is seeking comment on the draft *Strategy on Reducing Regulatory and Administrative Burden Relating to the Use of Health IT and EHRs*, released in November.

The draft addresses concerns shared by clinicians and other stakeholders that EHR burden can negatively affect provider satisfaction and ultimately the care delivery experience. Specifically, the draft strategy focuses on common sources of burden, including clinical documentation, health IT usability and user experience, EHR reporting programs, and public health reporting.

The public comment period ends on Monday January 28, 2019 at 11:59:59 PM ET.

Read the report and find out how to submit comments >

Update on the Oregon Medicaid Meaningful Use Technical Assistance Program (OMMUTAP)

As of December 2018, 1,518 providers across 355 clinics are participating in the program, which runs through May 2019. OMMUTAP helps certain Medicaid providers maximize their investments in EHRs, meet federal Meaningful Use requirements, improve efficiency and coordination of care, and improve the quality of EHR data.

Through a contract with OCHIN, technical assistance is provided for the following services:

1) Certified EHR Adoption, Implementation, and Upgrade Assistance
2) Interoperability Consulting and Technical Assistance
3) Risk and Security Training and Assessment
4) Meaningful Use Education and Attestation Assistance

Learn more about OMMUTAP >

Happy Holidays from the Office of Health Information Technology

Each December, we're filled with sincere appreciation for the support and input we receive throughout the year. From our team to yours, wishing you happiness this holiday season and through 2019.

Upcoming Meetings: January and February 2019

Provider Directory Advisory Committee: January 16, 2019, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC): February 7, 2019, 12:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Contact us

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