

April 2024 eNews

Welcome to the OHA's Health Information Technology (IT) eNewsletter! Here you will find updates on health IT in Oregon and at the federal level. For a deeper dive into health IT in Oregon check out the [Policy and Program Updates](#). If there are specific items you would like to see in this newsletter, please send ideas to HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov.

Health IT Oversight Council (HITOC)

April Meeting

HITOC's next meeting is [April 11](#) from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. and will be virtual. Members will reflect on the process of developing Oregon's Strategic Plan for Health Information Technology, 2024-2028. They will have the opportunity to discuss their accomplishments, hopes for future discussions, and recommendations for orienting new members. Members will also receive an update on recruitment efforts and bid farewell to several council members.

As always, a public comment period will be available: refer to the [meeting agenda](#) for times or email HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov.

HITOC Approved Draft Available

At their February 1, 2024 meeting, HITOC members approved the draft Oregon Strategic Plan for Health IT, 2024-2028. The Strategic Plan outlines HITOC's Vision, Goals, Principles, Strategies, and Activities for statewide health IT progress. As the author of the Strategic Plan, HITOC sets expectations for partners in the health IT landscape. The Strategies focus on patients and consumers, electronic health records (EHRs), health information exchange (HIE), community information exchange (CIE), interoperability, and governance. The draft plan is undergoing reviews by the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon and other OHA offices and will then be submitted to the Oregon Health Policy Board at their May 7 meeting.

The Draft Oregon Strategic Plan for Health IT, 2024-2028 is available on the [HITOC website](#).

Have thoughts about the draft Strategic Plan? Engagement in HITOC's work is ongoing, and HITOC welcomes public comment either at its meetings or in writing at any time to HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov. *See more information at the end of the newsletter about public comment.*

Member recruitment

HITOC received a record number of applications as part of their 2024 recruitment efforts. Thank you to all that applied! OHA staff will present a draft membership slate to the Oregon Health Policy Board at their May 7 meeting, and if approved, new members will join HITOC at the June meeting.

This recruitment was for multiple open seats on the council. Ideal HITOC candidates have strong lived and professional experience with health IT and how it impacts people in Oregon. They are committed to eliminating health inequities and to ensuring that health system transformation efforts are supported by health IT.

OHA Committee Recruitments

The Metrics and Scoring Committee is recruiting for new members

Have a say in how over \$300 million dollars are spent to improve healthcare quality and advance health equity. The Oregon Health Authority accepts applications for membership on the [Metrics and Scoring Committee](#) on an ongoing basis. **Apply by April 17, 2024 to be considered for two current vacancies for at-large members.** You do not need to reapply if you applied in the past; OHA will consider past applications for these positions. To apply:

1. Submit a [completed application](#) and resume to metrics.questions@odhsoha.oregon.gov. Applications are also available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian, and Simplified Chinese on the [committee webpage](#).
2. Fill out the [Oregon Health Policy Board Committee Membership survey](#).

The Metrics and Scoring Committee has nine members, and is made up of three health care providers, three Coordinated Care Organization employees, and three at large members from the general public. We are currently looking for people with experience in health equity and/or who receive Oregon Health Plan services for two at large positions.

The committee decides what counts as high quality care for Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members enrolled at Coordinated Care Organizations. Coordinated Care Organizations are responsible for making sure members get the health care they need. Based on the standards set by the committee, OHA gave over \$300 million dollars last year to Coordinated Care Organizations as a bonus for exceptional care.

Committee members meet once a month on Friday mornings from 9 am to 12 pm. All meetings are currently online. Committee members may be entitled to compensation for their committee work.

The Sustainable Health Care Cost Growth Target (CGT) Advisory Committee is recruiting for new members

The Oregon Health Authority Office of Health Policy is currently recruiting new members to serve on the Sustainable Health Care Cost Growth Target (CGT) Advisory Committee. The announcement about the recruitment, including instructions on how to apply, is available on the [CGT Advisory Committee website](#).

Oregon's goal is to achieve financial sustainability and long-term health care affordability of the state's health care system. The CGT Committee advises and supports the OHA, Oregon Health Policy Board, and Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services on transformative health care cost efforts and policy. The CGT Advisory Committee collaborates with state partners to develop strategies to lower cost growth. This recruitment is for individuals representing various sectors and expertise within the scope of the Committee. It is important to us to have diverse perspectives on the CGT Advisory Committee as they work to identify/inform health care cost issues and solutions. This work directly affects long-term health care affordability and sustainability for patients, health plan insurers, employers, hospital systems, and provider organizations.

Applications are due **Friday, April 26, 2024**. Please reach out to HealthCare.CostTarget@oha.oregon.gov with any questions.

Upcoming Events: OHA Health IT Meetings/Events

- April 11, 2024, 12:30-2:00 (Virtual): [HITOC Meeting](#)
- June 6, 2024, 12:30-3:30 (Virtual): [HITOC Meeting](#)
- July 25, 2024, 1:00-4:00 (Virtual): CCO [HIT Advisory Group \(HITAG\) quarterly meeting](#)

Want to weigh in on OHA’s Health IT work? How to make public comment:

OHA’s Health IT committee and workgroup meetings (i.e., HITOC, HIE Workgroup, HITAG) are open to the public, and public comment is always welcome at the meeting during the specified time or in writing at any time. Public comment is an important part of OHA’s committee work and is an opportunity for members of the public to provide input and feedback to the Committee or Workgroup.

Meetings: Typically, the public comment period is held at the end of each meeting. There may occasionally be more than one comment period. Members of the public are asked to comment or post in the chat only during this period, and to keep verbal comments to about 2 minutes. The public comment period is held solely for the public to share their thoughts with the Committee or Workgroup. Committee members are unlikely to ask questions or respond to public comment directly but consider public comments during committee work. If you know before the meeting that you’d like to provide public comment, you can email HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov to sign up. If you’d like to provide public comment during the meeting, you can message one of the hosts to sign-up. If you are unable to message, please speak up during the open public comment period.

Written Comment: You can also send written public comment to HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov at any time. To be included in the materials a meeting please submit the comment no less than 2 business days before the intended meeting. Please specify which group it is for – HITOC, HIE Workgroup, or HITAG. Written comment is emailed out and posted as part of meeting materials.

Have questions about public comment? We want to hear from you! Please email HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov

Everyone has a right to know about and use Oregon Health Authority (OHA) programs and services. OHA provides free help. Some examples of the free help OHA can provide are:

- CART (live captions)
- Sign language and spoken language interpreters
- Written materials in other languages
- Braille
- Large print
- Audio and other formats

If you need help or have questions, please email HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov or contact (503) 373-7859 at least 48 hours before the meeting. OHA will make every effort to provide services for requests made closer to the meeting.