

Health Information Technology Oversight Council 2021 Call for Nominations Background on HITOC

Background

The Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC) advises the Oregon Health Policy Board on the critical health information technology (health IT) infrastructure, policy and other supports needed to achieve the goals of Oregon's health system transformation (see [ORS 413.300](https://www.oregonlaws.org/ors/413.300)¹ through ORS 413.308). HITOC recommends health IT strategy for the state, provides input and advice on policy, and is a forum for stakeholder discussions about the role of health IT in health system transformation.

HITOC Purpose

HITOC is the policy, strategy, and oversight body for health IT in Oregon.

OHA envisions a transformed health system where the care Oregonians receive is optimized by health IT. HITOC provides a forum to define strategies, remove policy barriers, provide transparency and accountability, and measure progress toward achieving health IT optimized health care, in which:

1. Oregonians have their core health information available where needed so their care team can deliver person-centered, coordinated care.
2. Clinical and administrative data are efficiently collected and used to support quality improvement, population health management, incentivize improved health outcomes, and inform policy development.
3. Individuals and their families access, use, and contribute their clinical information to understand and improve their health and collaborate with their providers.
4. Health IT supports social determinants of health and health equity.

Health Equity Definition

Health IT can play an important role in addressing systemic racism and other social factors that result in health inequities. The Oregon Health Policy Board has adopted the following definition of health equity:

Oregon will have established a health system that creates health equity when all people can reach their full health potential and well-being and are not disadvantaged by their race, ethnicity, language, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, social class, intersections among these communities or identities, or other socially determined circumstances.

Achieving health equity requires the ongoing collaboration of all regions and sectors of the state, including tribal governments to address:

- The equitable distribution or redistributing of resources and power; and
- Recognizing, reconciling and rectifying historical and contemporary injustices.

For more information:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/OEI/Pages/Health-Equity-Committee.aspx>

¹ <https://www.oregonlaws.org/ors/413.300>

The field of health IT is evolving rapidly, creating challenges for Oregon health care entities that must make real-world decisions about investments in health IT. Today, more patients are using health IT to engage with their providers and participate in their health care. Additionally, organizations are seeking solutions to make new connections to meet social service needs and address systemic racism.

Priorities for 2021/2022

HITOC's main priority for 2021/2022 will be to update Oregon's health IT strategic plan, including:

- Stakeholder engagement including potentially chartering workgroups and/or listening sessions
- Health IT vision and goals to ensure health IT supports health system transformation
- Revisiting strategies to support EHR adoption and health information exchange, as well as patient/individual engagement with health IT (patient portals, consumer apps) to support improved health outcomes
- Emerging areas related to:
 - Health IT and health equity, including capturing race, ethnicity, language, and disability (REALD) demographic information
 - Social determinants of health and Community Information Exchange

Other focus areas for HITOC's work include:

- Impact of federal policy changes, including new interoperability rules
- COVID response/recovery and health IT and other exploratory work with Public Health
- Behavioral Health and health IT

HITOC Duties per Statute

1. Identify and make specific recommendations related to health IT to the Oregon Health Policy Board to achieve the goals of health system transformation.
2. Regularly review and report to the Board on the Oregon Health Authority's health IT efforts, including the Oregon Health Information Technology Program, toward achieving the goals of health system transformation.
3. Regularly review and report to the Board on the efforts of local, regional and statewide organizations to participate in health IT systems.
4. Regularly review and report to the Board on the state's progress in the adoption and use of health IT by health care providers, health systems, patients and others.
5. Advise the Board or the Oregon Congressional Delegation on changes to federal laws affecting health IT that will promote this state's efforts in utilizing health IT.

HITOC Members

HITOC members represent a broad range of organizations that are impacted by the Oregon Health IT Program, including consumer/patient advocates, providers, hospitals, health plans, community organizations, and coordinated care organizations (CCOs). HITOC members represent the diversity of Oregon and include organizations that use a wide array of health IT tools.

HITOC periodically convenes short-term and recurring workgroups/subcommittees to advise HITOC; this call for nominations may also be used to identify potential members for those groups. *Note: Technology vendors are not eligible to serve on HITOC.*

We are prioritizing looking for members who can provide perspectives on health IT in:

- Oral health
- Social determinants of health (SDOH), including community advocates
- Health equity
- Racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity (especially including Coastal communities)

In addition, we are considering members who can provide perspectives on health IT in:

- Consumer/patient advocacy
- Behavioral health (both mental health and substance use disorder treatment)
- Informatics, quality improvement, and/or privacy and security
- Local Public Health agencies
- Provider organizations and providers of different types including but not limited to: Federally Qualified Health Centers and other safety net clinics, primary care, hospitals, health systems, specialty care, post-acute care, long-term services and supports, nurses and nurse practitioners, community health workers, and traditional health workers
- Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) and health plans

Logistics

- **Commitment** – Members serve a term of 3 years. HITOC is an ongoing advisory council.
- **Meetings** – HITOC meets every other month for approximately 3 hours, and typically has an annual retreat that meets for 6 hours. All meetings are remote for the time being, in-person attendance for those able would resume once it is safe. OHA will reimburse travel costs of HITOC members, if needed. All meetings of HITOC and its committees are public meetings and include opportunity for public comment.

HITOC 2021 Schedule

Meeting Date	Time*	Location**
February 4, 2021	12:30pm – 3:30pm	Remote
April 1, 2021	12:30pm – 3:30pm	Remote
June 3, 2021	12:30pm – 3:30pm	Remote
August 5, 2021	12:30pm – 3:30pm	Remote
October 7, 2021	12:30pm – 3:30pm	Remote
December 2, 2021	12:30pm – 3:30pm	Remote

*We anticipate one meeting may be a longer, 6-hour retreat. The 2021 meeting schedule may include additional time, on a volunteer basis, related to the strategic plan update. This time is not required. Specific dates/times TBD.

**Remote until further notice. In-person meetings may resume in late 2021, although remote options will continue to be available.

Resources

- [Oregon’s Strategic Plan for HIT and HIE](#)²: This plan sets the vision and strategic direction to advance the adoption and use of health IT in Oregon.
- [2019 HITOC Data Report](#)³: includes data on adoption and use of electronic health records and health information exchange as well as context and considerations for HITOC’s work.
- [HITOC web page](#)⁴: HITOC’s work and meeting information.
- [OHIT web page](#)⁵: Oregon Health Information Technology Program’s work and key results.

HITOC member application⁶: Interested in HITOC or its work groups? Please complete a nomination application and submit to: HITOC.info@dhsosha.state.or.us

Staff Contact: Questions?

- Hope.peskin-shepherd@dhsosha.state.or.us: Hope Peskin-Shepherd, Policy Analyst, Office of Health Information Technology, OHA

If you are not interested in participating in HITOC, but would like to stay informed about OHA’s health IT work, please visit our [website](#)⁷ or [subscribe](#)⁸ for email updates.

² <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/OHIT-HITOC/Documents/OHA%209920%20Health%20IT%20Final.pdf>

³ <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/OHIT->

[HITOC/Documents/2019HITReport_HIEOverview_TwoWorlds_Combined.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/OHIT-HITOC/Documents/2019HITReport_HIEOverview_TwoWorlds_Combined.pdf)

⁴ <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/OHIT-HITOC/Pages/index.aspx>

⁵ <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/OHIT/Pages/index.aspx>

⁶ www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/OHIT-HITOC/Documents/HITOCMemberApp2021

⁷ <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/hpa/ohit/Pages/index.aspx>

⁸ <https://oregon.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=24ce6599e0616dc2d3e3ba25d&id=d749a107e0>