

# December 2023 eNews

Welcome to the Office of Health Information Technology (IT) & Analytics Infrastructure 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](mailto:HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov).

## HITOC

### December Meeting: Strategic Plan Retreat

HITOC's next meeting is [December 7](#) from 9:00-3:30. During this extended meeting, members will discuss the draft strategies and activities for Oregon's Health IT Strategic Plan 2024-2028. Members will also define what success looks like for the Strategic Plan goals, and review input gathered during 2023 community engagement. This meeting brings together years of work and community input with the goal of delivering a draft Strategic Plan in early 2024.

Two public comment periods will be available: refer to the [meeting agenda](#) for times. The meeting will in person at the Five Oak Building, 421 SW Oak Street, Suite 775, Portland, OR 97204. A virtual option is available as well.

### October Meeting

HITOC met on [October 5](#) and discussed the Health Information Exchange (HIE) Workgroup's draft concept paper [Advancing Population Health Through HIE](#). Members also engaged in an activity to refine the Strategic Plan draft principles and reviewed information on both HITOC's upcoming retreat and membership recruitment.

### Coming soon! HITOC Member Recruitment

HITOC anticipates accepting applications for membership in January 2024! Ideal candidates are committed to eliminating inequities and ensuring health system transformation efforts are supported by health IT. Information on when the application opens, as well as details on how to apply, will be posted on the [HITOC website](#) and sent via this newsletter.

HITOC members can expect to meet once every two months for 3 hours, and serve three year terms. Most meetings are virtual, and members can join online or via phone. HITOC meets in person approximately once per year with an option to join virtually.

Membership questions can be sent to Laurel Moffat, [Laurel.Moffat@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:Laurel.Moffat@oha.oregon.gov).

### Community engagement update

At their June 2023 meeting, HITOC reviewed the Existing Community Engagement and Input Report 2018-2022, and identified areas for additional focused engagement. Throughout summer and fall 2023, OHA staff led listening sessions and interviews with consumers, providers, and community leaders; partners in behavioral health, carceral settings, and long-term care; and organizations that serve rural, culturally specific communities, and tribal health clinics. The discussions focused on HITOC's draft Strategic Plan vision, goals, and strategies. Results were summarized and published in the updated report: [Community Engagement and Input Report 2018-2023](#). HITOC will review this new input as part of their [December 7 Strategic Plan Retreat](#).

## Federal Highlights

## **Proposed Rule Comment Opportunity: 21st Century Cures Act: Establishment of Disincentives for Health Care Providers That Have Committed Information Blocking**

A new proposed rule released October 30, 2023 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) details HHS's steps for holding health care providers accountable for information blocking. The proposed rule, "[21st Century Cures Act: Establishment of Disincentives for Health Care Providers That Have Committed Information Blocking](#)," proposes establishing disincentives for certain health care providers that have been found to have committed information blocking by the HHS Office of Inspector General. These rules would impact Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services programs. Comments must be submitted by January 2, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. ET via the [Federal Register](#). Read the [blog post](#) and [fact sheet](#) to learn more.

## **Upcoming Events: OHA Health IT Meetings/Events**

- December 7, 2023, 9:00-3:30: [HITOC Meeting](#)
- January 25, 2024, 1:00-4:00: CCO [HIT Advisory Group \(HITAG\) quarterly meeting](#)
- February 1, 2024, 12:30-3:30: [HITOC 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.