

Updated: May 2024 eNews

Updated to correct the list of new HITOC members.

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)

Health IT Strategic Plan Finalized

The Oregon Health Policy Board (OHPB) voted to support [Oregon's Strategic Plan for Health Information Technology 2024-2028](#) at their May 7, 2024, meeting, meaning the plan is now final and ready to be used by partners across the Oregon health IT landscape. The Strategic Plan for Health IT 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 plan outlines ways that health IT can support health equity, which is the Board's central priority and OHA's strategic goal for 2030. The strategies focus on patients and consumers, electronic health records (EHRs), health information exchange (HIE), community information exchange (CIE), interoperability, and governance.

HITOC Welcomes New Members!

HITOC is pleased to welcome six new members to the council! OHPB approved the slate of new members at the May 7 OHPB meeting. HITOC's newest members are:

- Brian Wetter, Vice President – IT Infrastructure & Analytics at PacificSource
- Jennifer Chi, Director, Digital Experience at CareOregon
- Jessica Soltesz, LMSW, Director of Social Health at Kaiser Permanente
- Nicolas Powers, MBA, FACHE, Chief Executive Officer at Winding Waters Clinic
- Omar Al Rais, MBA, MBChB, Vice President of Operations at Project Access NOW
- Tyler Stewart, IT Coordinator, White Bird Clinic

HITOC received a record number of applications from highly qualified applicants across Oregon as part of the 2024 recruitment that closed in February. New members have strong lived and professional experience with health IT and are committed to eliminating health inequities and to ensuring that health system transformation efforts are supported by health IT.

One seat is open and reserved for a Tribal representative. Recruitment for this seat is managed through OHA Tribal Affairs and is at the discretion of the Tribes.

June Meeting

HITOC's next meeting is [June 6](#) from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and will be virtual. The meeting will focus on health information exchange (HIE): members will discuss the impact of HIE on their work and will receive presentations from HIT Commons and Reliance. The two organizations will describe the HIE work they do in Oregon and how it relates to HITOC's HIE strategy as outlined in the Strategic Plan.

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

Upcoming Events: OHA Health IT Meetings/Events

- 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.