

# December 2021 eNews

Welcome to the Office of Health Information Technology (IT) eNewsletter! Here you will find updates on health IT in Oregon and at the federal level. If there are specific items you would like to see in this newsletter, please send ideas to [HITOC.INFO@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:HITOC.INFO@dhsoha.state.or.us).

## Updating Oregon's Strategic Plan for Health IT

The [Health Information Technology Oversight Council \(HITOC\)](#) is engaged in reviewing and updating Oregon's Strategic plan for health IT, and will be looking to identify strategies to ensure that health IT can support Oregon's health system transformation and goals to eliminate health inequities by 2030. There will be many opportunities to get involved in the strategic planning process over the next year. If you have thoughts you'd like to share with HITOC please email [hitoc.info@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:hitoc.info@dhsoha.state.or.us). HITOC meetings are open to the public, and public comment is always welcome either at the meeting or in writing at any time. For more information please see: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/OHIT-HITOC/Pages/HITOC-Meetings.aspx>

## New Community Information Exchange Workgroup

HITOC has approved 15 members for a new [Community Information Exchange \(CIE\) Workgroup](#) to recommend strategies to accelerate, support, and improve CIE across the state. Members represent a broad array of roles and backgrounds within Oregon's diverse landscape of health care, social service partners, and communities that are impacted by development in this area. Please see the HITOC Materials for the [membership](#) HITOC approved at their December meeting.

The CIE Workgroup will be meeting monthly throughout 2022. Meetings will be open to the public and available virtually. See the goals and full scope in the [CIE Workgroup Charter](#). Workgroup recommendations will inform HITOC's Health IT Strategic Plan for Oregon and OHA efforts.

## 2021 Oregon Health IT Survey: Deadline Extension

OHA has launched the 2021 Oregon Health IT Survey in collaboration with CCOs/DCOs to collect health IT information from all contracted organizations, whether or not they use an electronic health record (EHR).

Information collected from the survey will inform:

- CCO efforts to support health IT adoption and use across their provider networks.
- OHA's decisions related to health IT policy, strategy, and funding.

Physical, oral, and behavioral health organizations should have received an email from OHA/SurveyMonkey with a link to the survey. Thank you to the many organizations that already submitted a survey! For those who have not yet had a chance, **please submit your response by December 31<sup>st</sup>**. The survey includes questions about the following topics:

- Your organization's EHR,
- The health IT tools your organization uses,
- The benefits and barriers to exchanging electronic health information, and
- Patient engagement in health IT.

**Your organization's participation in the survey is very important.** Whether or not your organization uses health IT is important for CCOs and OHA to know, including the barriers your organization faces with health IT implementation and use. We thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the survey!

For questions about the 2021 Oregon Health IT Survey, please contact [OHAhealthIT.Survey@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:OHAhealthIT.Survey@dhsosha.state.or.us).

### **HITOC Education Sessions:**

OHA is planning a series of education sessions for HITOC and members of the public, to orient to key topics that will come up in the strategic plan work. These sessions are informational only. They will be optional for HITOC members, and no official HITOC action (deliberation or decisions) will be made.

#### **December Education Session: Oregon's Health IT Programs**

Please join us December 16th from 12:00-1:00 for the next HITOC education session on Oregon's health IT programs. The one hour webinar will provide a high-level orientation on with a focus on Health IT Commons and an overview of past HIT programs. To register, please click here:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdOCpqjgiEotGHv2uNef2GD6BVmFJ75E>

Health IT Commons: subject matter experts will present on the Commons' governance structure, two current programs and their use cases, lessons learned, and future directions. Current programs include:

- Emergency Department Information Exchange/Collective Platform (formerly known as PreManage) – the November 16<sup>th</sup> HITOC education session introduced this in more detail.
- Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Integration Initiative

A brief survey of past programs and highlights/lessons learned will include:

- Medicaid Electronic Health Records Incentive Program (aka Promoting Interoperability Program)
- CareAccord and the Direct Secure Messaging Flat File Directory
- Oregon Provider Directory
- Clinical Quality Metrics Registry
- Oregon Common Credentialing Program
- Oregon Medicaid Meaningful Use Technical Assistance Program (OMMUTAP)

The two previous education sessions on HIE Basics and Oregon's HIE Programs can be viewed [here](#).

#### **January Education Session: Federal Interoperability Final Rules**

Please join us January 20 from 12:00-1:00 for HITOC's education session on federal interoperability rules and how they are changing the health IT landscape. The one hour webinar will include a high level overview of the rules and will allow HITOC members an opportunity to ask questions about their impact. The two rules are:

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Interoperability and Patient Access Final Rule focuses on patient access to electronic health information (EHI) and interoperability among providers, payers and patients.

- The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) 21st Century Cures Act (Cures Act) Final Rule focuses on health IT certification, which applies to health IT developers; and policy guidance on what does not constitute information blocking, which applies to healthcare providers, health IT developers, and health information exchanges/networks.

To register, please click here: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlSdOGsqzMiEugFmujJ-UGl6nA8nZ1iTYM>

## Highlights from the December HITOC meeting

At the December HITOC meeting members approved the membership slate for the CIE Workgroup (see above), heard updates on the strategic plan work, and decided to charter an HIE workgroup. In the February meeting HITOC will consider a charter and potentially a slate for the new workgroup. More information about recruitment for the workgroup will be forthcoming.

HITOC meetings are open to the public, and public comment is always welcome either at the meeting or in writing at any time (send to: [HITOC.INFO@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:HITOC.INFO@dhsosha.state.or.us)). For more information please see: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/OHIT-HITOC/Pages/HITOC-Meetings.aspx>

## Health Information Exchange Onboarding Program Concludes

[Oregon's HIE Onboarding Program](#) launched in January 2019 and concluded September 30, 2021 with the sunset of federal funding. The Program leveraged significant federal funding to increase Medicaid providers' capability to exchange health information by supporting the initial costs of connecting (onboarding) priority Medicaid providers to community-based HIEs. Priority Medicaid providers included behavioral health, oral health, and critical physical health. Reliance eHealth Collaborative was selected as the HIE vendor through an RFP process.

By the end of the Program, over \$2.4 million had been spent successfully onboarding 72 unique entities, including 11 behavioral health practices, 4 oral health clinics, 50 critical physical health entities, and 7 major trading partners (hospital/health system/major referral centers) across five regions and seven CCOs. For more information, see the [HIE Onboarding Program Closure Summary](#), which was shared during the December HITOC meeting.

## Federal Policy

### ONC Announces Continued Collaboration with the Gravity Project

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) has renewed its collaboration with the [Gravity Project](#) under the FHIR Accelerator Program to support pilot testing of the newly published [Social Determinants of Health Clinical Care Implementation Guide](#). Four new social determinants of health data elements were included in the [United States Core Data for Interoperability](#) Version 2. This collaboration offers the opportunity to work with various stakeholders to provide testing of the newly added data elements in real world settings.

## State Policy

### OHA Releases Final Policy Concepts and Draft Application for Medicaid Waiver

The OHA Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver renewal team announced the publication of the [final policy concept papers](#) (including summaries of policy concepts). These papers outline changes OHA proposes to make to the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) as part of its effort to advance health equity. These concepts are the basis of OHA's upcoming application to CMS, whose approval is needed to implement policies reflected in these concept papers. If approved, Oregon would make changes to OHP during the 2022 – 2027 demonstration period.

OHA has developed a [draft waiver application](#) to CMS based on these policy concept papers and related feedback. You can provide feedback on the draft waiver application in the following ways 12/7/21-1/7/22:

1. Email at [1115.WaiverRenewal@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:1115.WaiverRenewal@dhsosha.state.or.us)
2. Online survey: <https://tinyurl.com/OHPWaiverSurvey>
3. Physical mail to:  
Health Policy and Analytics Medicaid Waiver Renewal Team  
Attn: Michelle Hatfield  
500 Summer St. NE, E65  
Salem, OR 97301
4. At one of the public meetings in December and January where comment will be accepted.

For more information, see the [Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver Application webpage](#).

## Upcoming Events

### OHA Health IT Meetings/Events

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### January HITAG meeting

The next Health Information Technology Advisory Group (HITAG) meeting will be January 13, 1:00 – 4:00. HITAG includes representatives from each CCO. The meeting will include updates from the Office of Health IT, discussion of the 2022 Updated HIT Roadmap Template for CCOs, and more. For more

information about HITAG and this meeting, see  
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/OHIT/Pages/HITAG.aspx>