

November 2021 eNews

Welcome to the Office of Health Information Technology eNewsletter! Here you will find updates on health information technology 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@dhsosha.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@dhsosha.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 (CIE) Work Group: Call for Applications

HITOC is seeking members for a new [chartered Community Information Exchange \(CIE\) Workgroup](#) to recommend strategies to accelerate, support, and improve CIE across the state.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) needs to hear from people providing and seeking social supports for individuals, as we consider how CIE may benefit from potential new statewide efforts such as funding, technical assistance, incentives, or other efforts. This is a great opportunity for individuals who want to help advance health equity in Oregon through health information technology and those who have experience with CIE or social determinants of health.

Applications are open now through November 17, 2021.

For more information and to apply, review the call for [nominations](#).

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.

HIE Interviews

OHA and HIT Commons will conduct initial health information exchange (HIE) interviews to understand challenges and opportunities. HITOC will hear interview findings at the December 2021 meeting and use the findings to better understand the current landscape and range of HIE issues and identify next steps in the strategic plan update process. If you have thoughts you'd like to share with HITOC about HIE in Oregon, or are interested in participating in these initial HIE interviews, please email hitoc.info@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.

HIE Basics: On October 29th HITOC held its' first education session on HIE basics education session. This one-hour webinar is the first of two education sessions on HIE. You can view the [slides and recording here](#). Justin Keller of Health IT Commons provided a high level overview of HIE, including:

- HIE definitions and an overview of HIE strategies;
- HIE policy landscape and select efforts at federal, state, and local levels:
 - Federal, including emerging regulations such as TEFCA and 21st Century CURES
 - State, including current and previous efforts in Oregon and other states
 - Local, including past and current community and regional level efforts
- Opportunities/challenges ahead for HIE

Oregon's HIE Programs: Please join us **Tuesday, November 16th from 12:00-1:00 pm** for an educational webinar on Oregon's HIE environment and programs. The one hour webinar will provide a high-level orientation to the past and current HIE programs that have helped foster the electronic exchange of health information among Oregon's providers and create the present HIE environment. [Register here](#). Subject matter experts will present on the following topics and be available for questions:

- Reliance eHealth Collaborative, a community-based HIE in several Oregon regions.
- The HIE Onboarding Program (concluded 9/30/21), a program that supported Oregon priority Medicaid providers onboarding to Reliance eHealth Collaborative.
- The Emergency Department information exchange (EDIE), a tool that allows Emergency Departments (EDs) in real-time to identify patients with complex care needs who frequently use the emergency room for their care.
- The Collective Platform (fka PreManage), a companion software tool to EDIE that brings the same real-time hospital event notifications (ED and Inpatient Admit, Discharge, and Transfer [ADT] data) to those outside of the hospital system, such as health plans, coordinated care organizations (CCOs), providers, and care coordinators.

Highlights from the October HITOC meeting

HITOC met October 7th, and discussed strategic planning and CIE. Highlights from the meeting include:

- HITOC approved a charter for a new CIE Workgroup, which will advise on the strategies to support, accelerate, and improve CIE in Oregon. HITOC's chair and vice-chair will select one or two HITOC members as liaisons to this new Workgroup. Recruitment is currently open (See CIE Workgroup recruitment announcement in this eNewsletter), and HITOC may review a draft slate at the December HITOC meeting.
- HITOC members engaged in a visioning exercise in small groups as part of the Strategic Planning process. A summary of this work will be included in the December HITOC meeting materials.

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). 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 onboarding 80 entities, including 13 behavioral health practices, 4 oral health clinics, 59 critical physical health entities, and 4 major trading partners (hospital/health system) across seven CCOs and 14 counties. More information on this Program will be presented to HITOC as part of the December 2021 meeting. Thanks to all who participated in this Program!

Federal Policy

Payer-to-Payer Data Exchange

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently updated their FAQs indicating they are not planning to enforce the payer-to-payer exchange requirements effective January 1, 2022 and are planning to exercise discretion on how and when enforcement will occur. [Click here to see CMS's FAQ to learn more.](#) CMS encourages payers to continue with implementation if they have already begun. See the below excerpt of CMS' response to the question: "Will CMS enforce the payer-to-payer data exchange requirements on January 1, 2022 as finalized in the CMS Interoperability and Patient Access final rule?":

"CMS continues to encourage impacted payers that have already developed Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR)-based application programming interface (API) solutions to support payer-to-payer data exchange to continue to move forward with implementation and make this functionality available on January 1, 2022 in accordance with the CMS Interoperability and Patient Access final rule policies. However, for those impacted payers that are not capable of making the data available in a FHIR-based API format, we believe this enforcement discretion will alleviate industry tension regarding implementation; avoid the risk of discordant, non-standard data flowing between payers; provide time for data standards to mature further through constant development, testing, and reference implementations; and allow payers additional time to implement more sophisticated payer-to-payer data exchange solutions."

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 for Medicaid Waiver

The OHA 1115 Demonstration Waiver renewal team announced the publication of the [final policy concept papers](#). 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 is currently drafting a formal application to CMS based on these policy concept papers and related feedback. OHA welcomes feedback on these policy documents about these proposed changes and has produced plain language [summaries of the policy concepts](#). You can provide feedback on these concepts and later on the draft application in one of two ways:

1. Via email at 1115.WaiverRenewal@dhsoha.state.or.us (at any time)
2. At one of the public meetings in December and January where comment will be accepted.

OHA will release a full schedule of meetings in coming weeks. For more information, see the [1115 Demonstration Waiver renewal web page](#).

HB4212 REALD Provider Reporting Requirements

Oregon's House Bill 4212 (2020) requires health care providers to collect race, ethnicity, language, and disability (REALD) data for all COVID-19 encounters. After collection, providers must report this data to OHA with COVID-19 disease reporting. OHA has updated [Oregon Administrative Rule \(OAR\) 333-018-0011](#) to allow the following on and after Oct. 1, 2021:

- REALD reporting can be done either by sending CSV files or via the [Oregon COVID Reporting Portal](#). REALD reports can be faxed only if the Oregon COVID Reporting Portal is not operable.
- [Phase 3 providers](#) are now required to report no later than Jan. 1, 2022.

For more information, see the [REALD for Providers webpage](#).

Upcoming Events

OHA Health IT Meetings/Events

HITOC Education Session: Oregon's HIE Programs

The next HITOC education session will be on November 16th from 12:00-1:00 pm and will provide an overview of Oregon's HIE programs including the HOP, Reliance, EDIE, and Collective. Register here: https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltfumvrTloE92N_f1_UmehbYvhSD8xkaY

November HITAG meeting

The next Health Information Technology Advisory Group ([HITAG](#)) meeting will be November 4, 1:00 – 4:00. HITAG includes representatives from each CCO. The meeting will include updates from the Office of Health IT, preview of the 2022 Updated HIT Roadmap Template for CCOs, and a CCO Panel spotlighting initiatives that support electronic health record (EHR) Adoption. For more information about HITAG and this meeting, see <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/OHIT/Pages/HITAG.aspx>

December HITOC meeting

The next HITOC meeting is Thursday, December 2, 12:30-3:30 and will focus on strategic planning and will include a deep dive on HIE in Oregon. For more information please see:

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

Health IT Commons Events

For past HIT Commons events, see: <https://orhealthleadershipcouncil.org/edie-utility-learning-resources-and-webinars/>

HIT Commons: Behavioral Health Learning Collaborative

HIT Commons' annual Behavioral Health Collaborative will feature keynote speaker Steve Allen, OHA Director of Behavioral Health, who will highlight state priorities for behavioral health as a result of the 2021 Legislative session. In addition, there will be several choices of breakout presentations which will highlight HIE tools utilized in Oregon, including EDIE, Collective Platform and PDMP integration. Payers, providers, policy-makers and other stakeholders interested in Behavioral Health in Oregon including policy and care coordination efforts should attend.

December 3, 2021 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (virtual meeting)

[Register Here](#)