

Health Information Technology Oversight Council Health IT Policy & Program Updates

June 2024



Issue highlights:

- [Health IT Strategic Plan Finalized](#)
- [HITOC Welcomes New Members](#)
- [CIE to Support Oregon's 2022-2027 1115 Medicaid Waiver](#)
- [Federal updates](#)

HITOC Updates

Oregon's Strategic Plan for Health IT, 2024-2028, Contact: Laurel.Moffat@oha.oregon.gov

HITOC develops Oregon's Strategic Plan for Health IT to provide high-level priorities, guidance, and direction for health IT over the next five years. The Strategic Plan has been developed over a multi-year process involving HITOC meetings, extensive community engagement, two workgroups, and staff support from OHA. See the [Strategic Plan webpage](#) for more information.

Health IT Strategic Plan Finalized

The Oregon Health Policy Board (OHPB) voted to support HITOC's Strategic Plan 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 Oregon Strategic Plan for Health IT, 2024-2028 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.

The [Oregon Strategic Plan for Health IT, 2024-2028](#) is available on the [HITOC website](#).

HITOC Meetings and Annual Priorities, Contact: Laurel.Moffat@oha.oregon.gov

June Meeting

HITOC's next meeting is [June 6](#) from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. and will be virtual. HITOC will welcome six new members to the council. 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.

What is HITOC?

The Oregon Legislature created the [Health Information Technology Oversight Council \(HITOC\)](#) to ensure that health system transformation efforts are supported by health information technology (IT). HITOC is a committee of the [Oregon Health Policy Board \(OHPB\)](#), which sets policy and provides oversight for the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), including OHA's health system transformation efforts.

HITOC has six responsibilities:

1. Explore health IT policy
2. Plan Oregon's health IT strategy
3. Oversee OHA's health IT efforts
4. Assess Oregon's health IT landscape
5. Report on Oregon's health IT progress
6. Monitor federal health IT law and policy

HITOC brings partners across Oregon together for centralized policy work, strategic planning, oversight of health IT efforts, and landscape/policy assessment, so health IT efforts are more coordinated. HITOC also provides health IT expertise to OHPB and to Oregon lawmakers so they are informed about health IT in Oregon when they make policies and laws about health.

OHA's [Office of Health IT & Analytics Infrastructure \(OHITAI\)](#) staffs HITOC and the Oregon Health IT Program.

Welcoming New Members

HITOC is pleased to welcome six new members to the council! OHPB approved the slate of new members at their May 7 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.

Oregon Health IT Program: Partnerships, Programs, and Initiatives

CCO Health IT Roadmaps and Support, Contact: Marta.M.Makarushka@oha.oregon.gov

Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) are contractually required to maintain an OHA-approved Health IT Roadmap. CCOs are required to submit an annual Health IT Roadmap to OHA reporting the progress made from the previous year, as well as plans, activities, and milestones detailing how they will support contracted providers in future contract years. As of 2022, CCOs are also required to submit data files reporting on EHR and HIE adoption by contracted providers.

CCOs submitted 2024 “Health IT Roadmaps” and “Health IT Data Reporting Files” to OHA in March 2024. CCOs reported the progress they made in 2023 to support EHR and HIE adoption, access, and optimization, and use of health IT to support SDOH needs, including social needs screening and referrals. They also shared their planned strategies to further these efforts in 2024-26. OHA has begun reviewing CCO submissions and will notify CCOs by June 17, 2024 whether Roadmaps were approved or if revisions are needed.

OHA will develop 2024 Roadmap summaries that will inform HITOC and OHA efforts. HITAG discussed the 2023 [Health IT to Support SDOH Needs Summary](#) at the July 27 meeting, the 2023 [Supporting EHR Adoption Summary](#) at the October 26 meeting, and the 2023 [Supporting HIE Summary](#) at the January 25 meeting. Meeting recordings, redacted 2023 Health IT Roadmaps, and reporting templates/guidance are posted on OHA's [CCO Health IT Advisory Group \(HITAG\) website](#). HITAG's next quarterly meeting is July 25, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Community Information Exchange (CIE), Contact: Hope.Peskin-Shepherd@oha.oregon.gov

OHA's CIE team monitors the CIE landscape, provides educational information, and analyzes and implements strategies that can support CIE efforts in Oregon. In 2022, OHA staffed CIE Workgroup under HITOC to provide recommendations on strategies to accelerate, support, and improve statewide CIE in Oregon. HITOC submitted these to the Oregon legislature in the [House Bill 4150 \(2022\) Legislative Report](#) in January 2023.

CIE to Support Oregon's 2022-2027 1115 Medicaid Waiver

In September 2022, Oregon received federal approval to pilot first-in-the-nation changes to the state's Medicaid program through 2027. Under the agreement, Oregon will receive \$1.1 billion in new federal funds to address inadequate food, housing and other root-cause issues that lead to poor health for people and families struggling to make ends meet. The agreement between Oregon and the federal agency, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid

Services (CMS), renews Oregon's current section 1115 Medicaid Waiver for 2022 – 2027 and provides federal approval and funding to implement the new changes. Visit the [1115 Medicaid Waiver webpage](#) for general information.

Oregon's 2022-2027 [1115 Medicaid waiver](#) requires that closed loop referrals be used to support delivery of health-related social needs (HRSN) services, including housing, nutrition and climate-related supports, and outreach and engagement. CIE supports this waiver requirement, helps efficiently connect people with the services and resources they need, and helps eliminate health inequities.

OHA has no plans to disrupt the current CIE environment. OHA plans to procure CIE to help avoid creating inequities in access to services for Oregon Health Plan (OHP) Open Card members (also known as fee-for-service) and may elect to procure more than one vendor in this process. Use of CIE for closed loop referrals will be phased in during implementation of the waiver but is not required for 2024-2025. OHA will coordinate with CCOs to support CBOs with CIE adoption, and as plans develop, OHA asks for input from impacted partners.

Health IT Landscape and Environmental Scan, Contact: Marta.M.Makarushka@oha.oregon.gov

OHA's Health IT team engages in ongoing environmental scan activities to inform health IT efforts and ensure strategies and programs address evolving needs. OHA's Health IT team continues compiling data across the agency and other sources to serve various purposes, such as informing HITOC's progress monitoring, program oversight, reporting priorities and strategic planning. Refer to [the 2022 HITOC Report on Oregon's Health IT Landscape](#) for more information.

HIT Commons, Contact: Luke.A.Glowasky@oha.oregon.gov

The HIT Commons is a public/private collaboration to coordinate investments in health IT, leverage funding opportunities, and advance HIE across the state. HIT Commons is co-sponsored by the Oregon Health Leadership Council (OHLIC) and OHA, and is jointly funded by OHA, hospitals, health plans and CCOs. For more information, see the [HIT Commons website](#).

EDIE and the Collective Platform (formerly known as PreManage)

The [Emergency Department Information Exchange \(EDIE\)](#) 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) is a companion software tool to EDIE. The Collective Platform 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, CCOs, providers, and care coordinators. OHA supports a Collective Platform subscription that includes use by CCOs, Oregon Department of Human Services programs, Tribal clinics, and other Medicaid care coordinators. The technology vendor for EDIE and the Collective Platform is PointClickCare.

Staff for the HIT Commons Governance Board is developing a new strategic plan to guide the work of the HIT Commons over the next two or more years. HIT Commons staff have performed in depth interviews with each Board member, gathered input from the HIT Commons User Advisory Group, and received feedback from the Board on initial straw models of strategic approaches at its April 2024 meeting. A refined proposal for a multi-year strategic plan will be presented for consideration by the Governance Board at its July 2024 meeting. Alignment with priorities and strategies in HITOC's Strategic Plan for Health IT, 2024-2028, has been identified as a priority for HIT Commons staff as part of this planning process.

The HIT Commons Governance Board welcomed four new members in 2024:

- Kaci Burgess, Clinical Information System Administrator, Deschutes County Health Services
- Dan Herman, Chief Executive Officer, 211info
- Leah Mitchell, Executive Vice President of Operations & Chief Integration Officer, Salem Health

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- Julie Spiert, Director of Operations, OHSU

The [HIT Commons User Advisory Group \(HUAG\)](#) met March 15, 2023. Topics of discussion included: updates on priority use cases for HIT Commons, including enabling overdose notifications to prescribers using the Collective Platform and launching a real-time data feed of admission and discharge data from the Oregon State Hospital to the Collective platform; and gathering input from HUAG members to inform HIT Commons' current strategic planning work. Materials from the March 15, 2023 HUAG meeting, including the current list of priority EDIE/Collective use cases, are available [here](#). The next meeting is June 28, 2024.

Oregon's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Integration Initiative

Oregon's PDMP Integration initiative connects EDIE, Reliance eHealth Collaborative HIE, EHRs, and pharmacy management systems to Oregon's PDMP. HIT Commons is overseeing the [PDMP Integration initiative](#) with guidance from its HIT Commons Users Advisory Group and in coordination with OHA's Public Health PDMP program. Bamboo Health is the technology vendor for the PDMP system. For more information see the [HIT Commons website](#).

Use of the popular PDMP Integration initiative continues to grow with 15 new organizations going live in Q1 of 2024. HIT Commons and OHA Public Health representatives are working with Bamboo Health to identify the cause of a significant decrease in reported Integration usage over the last two quarters (as shown in the Q1 Report linked below). OHA will update HITOC via future Policy & Program Update reports. Additional information, including a list of participating organizations, can be found in the [Q1 2024 PDMP Integration Implementation Report](#).

Federal and State Health IT Policy Updates

Federal Law and Policy, Contact: Laurel.Moffat@oha.oregon.gov

See past [Health IT Policy and Program Updates](#) for news on federal health IT policy and updates to standards and guidance, including the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) efforts.

News

Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) releases Common Agreement version 2.0, paving the way for Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) Exchange via FHIR

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) and its Recognized Coordinating Entity® (RCE™), The Sequoia Project, Inc., announced April 22 that Common Agreement Version 2.0 (CA v2.0) has been [released](#). The Common Agreement establishes the technical infrastructure model and governing approach for different health information networks and their users to securely share clinical information with each other – all under commonly agreed-to rules-of-the-road. Notably, CA v2.0 includes enhancements and updates to require support for Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources® (FHIR®) Application Programming Interface (API) exchange, which will allow TEFCA Participants and Sub-participants to more easily exchange information directly between themselves and will enable individuals to more easily access their own health care information using apps of their choice via TEFCA.

Read the [press release](#), or for more information about TEFCA, visit HealthIT.gov or visit the RCE's website, rce.sequoiaproject.com

Comment Opportunity

ONC is requesting input on [Health Equity by Design Concept Paper](#)

ONC recently published a white paper laying out their vision for Health Equity by Design (HEBD). They are seeking health care community input to help ONC finalize a vision that works to make health equity a key

component when new technology is designed, developed, and deployed. [Comments](#) will be accepted until June 10, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET.

Funding Notice

Funding opportunity to develop lightweight health IT solutions for behavioral health clinics

ONC’s Leading Edge Acceleration Projects (LEAP) in Health IT program issued a [Special Emphasis Notice](#) for fiscal year 2024 that includes ‘Accelerating adoption of health IT in behavioral health settings’. They are looking to fund one \$1M Cooperative Agreement to design, develop, and pilot lightweight health IT solutions, such as SMART on FHIR apps, that can enhance health IT capabilities in behavioral health settings and improve care coordination between behavioral health and clinical healthcare settings. Funding includes support for piloting the app(s) in behavioral health settings. The application period closes on July 12, 2024, at 12:00 PM ET. More information can be found on the [ONC website](#).

Stay Connected

You can find information about HITOC at our [website](#). Meetings are open to the public. Public comments are accepted at the end of each meeting or in writing to the HITOC Chair and Vice-Chair in care of OHA (HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov).

Refer to past [Health IT Policy and Program Updates](#) to review previous health IT resources, historical state and federal updates, and more.

Program Contact

Health Information Technology Oversight Council: HITOC.INFO@odhsoha.oregon.gov

Get involved with Oregon Health IT

Office of Health Information Technology & Analytics Infrastructure: HealthIT.Oregon.gov | [Join our email](#)