

Health Information Technology Oversight Council Health IT Policy & Program Updates

April 2024



Issue highlights:

- [HITOC Approved Draft Strategic Plan for Health IT Available](#)
- [CIE to Support Oregon's 2022-2027 1115 Medicaid Waiver](#)
- [Federal updates](#)

HITOC Updates

Oregon's Strategic Plan for Health IT, 2024-2028, Contact: Hope.Peskin-Shepherd@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.

HITOC Approved Draft Available

At their February 1, 2024, meeting, HITOC members approved the draft Oregon Strategic Plan for Health IT, 2024-2028. The Strategic Plan 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 Strategies focus on patients and consumers, electronic health records (EHRs), health information exchange (HIE), community information exchange (CIE), interoperability, and governance. The draft plan is undergoing reviews by the Nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon and other OHA offices and will then be submitted to the Oregon Health Policy Board at their May 7 meeting.

The Draft 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

April Meeting

HITOC's next meeting is [April 11](#) from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. and will be virtual. Members will reflect on the process of developing Oregon's Strategic Plan for Health Information Technology, 2024-2028. They will have the opportunity to discuss their accomplishments, hopes for future discussions, and recommendations for orienting new members. Members will also receive an update on recruitment efforts and bid farewell to several council members.

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.

Member recruitment

HITOC received a record number of applications from highly-qualified applicants across Oregon as part of the 2024 recruitment that closed in February. OHA staff will present a draft membership slate to the Oregon Health Policy Board at their May meeting, and if approved, new members will join HITOC at the June meeting.

This recruitment was for multiple open seats on the council. Ideal HITOC candidates have strong lived and professional experience with health IT and how it impacts people in Oregon. They are committed to eliminating health inequities and to ensuring that health system transformation efforts are supported by health IT.

2024 Recruitment focused on these priority areas for representation:

- **Behavioral health organizations**
- **Community-based organizations (CBOs) and social services**
- **Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO) and health plans**
- **Healthcare consumers, including people with disabilities and consumer advocates**
- People with experience working and living in **long-term care**
- **Students and youth** involved in health IT
- **Geographic representation**, particularly those who have experience with remote or sparsely populated areas such as Central or Eastern Oregon
- Representation from **racially and culturally diverse communities**

Technology vendors are not eligible to serve on HITOC but may be considered for workgroups or subcommittees. The Tribal seat is currently open. 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 create parity for Medicaid Open Card members 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 seeks 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 in the midst of 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 will be developing an initial proposal for a multi-year strategic plan for consideration by the Governance Board at its April 2024 meeting. Alignment with priorities and strategies in HITOC's draft 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 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. For more information see the [HIT Commons website](#).

Use of the popular PDMP Integration initiative continues to grow with 32 new organizations going live in Q4 of 2023. Additional information, including a list of participating organizations, can be found in the [Q4 2023 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.

Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) releases draft Federal Health IT Strategic Plan

The [2024-2030 Federal Health IT Strategic Plan](#) draft outlines plans to help patients and providers access health records more easily. The measures include implementing health IT education and training programs, simplifying electronic documentation requirements for provider payments and providing ways for patients to share their health information using apps to participate in health research.

The public comment period on the draft plan ends on May 28, 2024 at 11:59 pm ET. You can submit your comments at HealthIT.gov/Feedback.

Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) Expands by Adding Two Additional Qualified Health Information Networks

On February 12, 2024, ONC announced CommonWell Health Alliance and Kno2 have been designated as Qualified Health Information Networks™ (QHINs™) capable of nationwide health data exchange.

CommonWell and Kno2 join the first five QHINs—eHealth Exchange, Epic Nexus, Health Gorilla, KONZA, and MedAllies, and can immediately begin supporting the exchange of data under the Common Agreement's policies and technical requirements along with the other designated QHINs. QHINs are the pillars of TEFCA network-to-network exchange, providing shared services and governance to securely route queries, responses, and messages across networks for health care stakeholders including patients, providers, hospitals, health systems, payers, and public health agencies.

Visit the [ONC TEFCA website](#), or see the [QHIN press release](#) to learn more.

SAMHSA and ONC Launch the Behavioral Health Information Technology Initiative

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and ONC will work together to invest more than \$20 million of SAMHSA funds over the next three years in an initiative to advance health information technology in behavioral health care and practice settings. The project supports the [United States](#)

[Department of Health and Human Services Roadmap for Behavioral Health Integration](#) and is consistent with the [President's call to action](#) to prevent, treat, and provide long-term recovery supports for mental illness and substance use disorders.

Visit the [ONC blog post](#) for more information.

42 CFR Part 2: Final Rule Updates

On February 8, 2024, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) through SAMHSA and the Office for Civil Rights announced a final rule modifying the Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Patient Records regulations at 42 CFR part 2. The final rule includes the modifications to Part 2 that were proposed in the notice of proposed rulemaking that include allowing a single consent for all future uses and disclosures for treatment, payment, and health care operations, and allowing HIPAA covered entities and business associates that receive records under this consent to redisclose the records in accordance with the HIPAA regulations.

To learn more, review the [Press Release](#) and [Fact Sheet for 42 CFR Part 2 Final Rule](#).

Oregon Law and Policy, Contact: Luke.A.Glowasky@oha.oregon.gov

Oregon 2024 Legislative Session

The 2024 Oregon Legislative Session concluded on March 7, 2024. OHA's [2024 Legislative End of Session Report](#) provides a summary of bills that passed with impacts to the health of people in Oregon. Staff will keep HITOC informed of any health IT components identified as part of the agency's work to implement new legislation.

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

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