**Meeting Minutes**

**Health Information Technology Council**

**February 1, 2021**

3:30 – 5 p.m.

**Due to COVID-19 precautions, meeting was held remotely
in lieu of in-person meeting normally held at**

**One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108**

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| Name | Organization | Attended |
| **Lauren Peters**  | *Undersecretary of Health and Human Services (Designee for Secretary Sudders)* | Y |
| **Deborah Adair** | *Executive Director, Enterprise Health Information Management/Privacy, Partners Healthcare* | Y |
| **John Addonizio** | *Chief Executive Officer, Addonizio & Company* | N |
| **Damon Cox** | *Assistant Secretary for Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship (Designee for Secretary Mike Kennealy)* | Y |
| **Frank Gervasio** | *Project Manager, Executive Office of Administration and Finance* | N |
| **Diane Gould** | *President and Chief Executive Officer, Advocates Inc.* | Y |
| **Vivian Haime** | *Manager of Care Delivery Transformation and Strategic Partnerships, Health Policy Commission* | N |
| **John Halamka, MD** | *President, Mayo Clinic Platform* | N |
| **Sean Kay** | *Global Accounts District Manager, EMC Corporation* | N |
| **Dicken S. C. Ko, MD** | *Chief Medical Officer/Vice President of Medical Affairs, St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center, Steward Health Care* | N |
| **Michael Lee, MD** | *Medical Director, Boston Children’s Hospital*  | Y |
| **Manuel Lopes** | *Chief Executive Officer, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center* | N |
| **Linda McGoldrick** | *President and CEO, Zillion* | Y |
| **Michael Miltenberger** | *Vice President Healthcare Team, Advent International* | Y |
| **Nancy Mizzoni, NP** | *Professor and Nurse Practitioner, Middlesex Community College* | Y |
| **Naomi Prendergast** | *President and Chief Executive Officer, D’Youville Life and Wellness Community* | Y |
| **Monica Sawhney** | *Chief of Staff, MassHealth (Designee for Assistant Secretary Daniel Tsai)* | N |
| **Emma Schlitzer** | *Manager, External Affairs, CHIA (represented by Lisa Ahlgren)* | Y |
| **Laurance Stuntz** | *Director, Massachusetts eHealth Institute* | Y |
| **Pramila Yadav, MD** | *Private Practice Obstetrics & Gynecology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center* | Y |

**HIT Council Members**

Note: The above list provides the HIT Council Members at the time of the February 1, 2021 meeting.

## Discussion Item 1: Welcome

Undersecretary Lauren Peters called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. The Undersecretary welcomed the HITC (Health Information Technology Council) to the February 1, 2021 meeting.

Undersecretary Peters called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2020 HIT Council meeting. The minutes were approved.

Undersecretary Peters called for a motion to approve the HIT Council 2020 annual report. Laurance Stuntz asked whether the report laid out how many organizations were using the HIway and for what purposes. Undersecretary Peters asked whether these metrics exist in other EOHHS reports. Bert Ng responded that this data may exist for other tracking purposes, but it has not been included in the annual report. Peters suggested that if such data is available it could be added as an appendix and be referenced in the body of the report. Stuntz agreed. Undersecretary Peters put the motion to approve the 2020 report amended with that one additional item. The motion was approved.

## Discussion Item 2: Statewide Event Notification Services Framework update

*See slides 6-10 of the presentation. The following are explanations from the presenter, with additional comments, questions, and discussion among the Council Members.*

Undersecretary Lauren Peters and Bert Ng presented an update on the ENS initiative. Ng shared that EOHHS is in the final phases of contracting with PatientPing and Collective Medical. He will update this group once contracting has been finalized.

Deborah Adair asked about timing. Ng said that vendor implementation was planned with a go-live for April 1, 2021. He added that based on conversations with vendors in the fall there are only about 5-6 hospitals that don’t currently submit ADTs to one of these vendors, and EOHHS will work closely with those organizations that are not currently engaged with a vendor. No penalties will be implemented until at least October of 2021.

Stuntz asked if there had been any analysis done to determine whether once these hospitals connect to the state-certified vendors and deliver ADTs will they also be in compliance with federal ADT requirements? Ng discussed the information-sharing objectives that ONC and CMS have put forth, which emphasize letting data flow more freely and discourage data blocking. Ng added that if a provider is using a certified ENS vendor, they should be able to leverage that to meet the federal requirements, provided that the required standard data elements are included.

Ng added that the state ENS deadline is April 1, 2021, one month before the CMS rule is scheduled to take effect on May 1, 2021.

## Discussion Item 3: Federal funding update

*See slides 11-15 of the presentation. The following are explanations from the presenter, with additional comments, questions, and discussion among the Council Members.*

Bert Ng presented a high level budget update, reviewing upcoming federal funding allocation changes and their impact on state share.

Stuntz asked about the loss of up to 70% of funding from the federal government. He asked what is 70% of the total number and whether the Governor’s new budget would support that or if they would be looking for new funding from another source. Ng replied that they are looking into each of the variables and they are looking at alignment to see where every program fits line item by line item. They are looking at the type of activities the team currently performs and whether they can be combined in any way. They are trying to figure out where money is available, what they can do with it, and how it can be maximized. Undersecretary Peters added that they expect to have more information to bring back to the Council at the next meeting in May.

## Discussion Item 4: Clinical Gateway and AWS update

*See slides 16-21 of the presentation. The following are explanations from the presenter, with additional comments, questions, and discussion among the Council Members.*

David Whitham presented an update on the Clinical Gateway, and moving the seven Clinical Gateway nodes from private hosting to Amazon Web Services (AWS), which will allow the HIway to control costs and facilitate scalability.

Whitham also noted that Micky Tripathi was appointed to the Office of National Coordinator for Health IT and we can expect a lot of movement in the area of FHIR standards and how we can implement those in health IT.

Rik Kerstens gave a demonstration of the features of the new Mass HIway website.

There were no questions during this discussion item.

**Discussion Item 5: HIway connection requirement and 2020 attestation**

*See slides 22-25 of the presentation. The following are explanations from the presenters, and comments, questions, and discussion among the Council Members that supplement the content on the slides.*

Chris Stuck-Girard presented an update on the HIway connection requirement and 2020 attestation.

Due to COVID-19, the attestation deadline was deferred to Dec 31, 2020. Despite the pandemic, submissions have been strong with all hospitals, half of community health centers, and 73% of medium and large ambulatory practices submitting either attestation or exception forms. The HIway is now moving onto targeted outreach for those organizations that have not submitted a form yet.

Michael Lee said that as a Council Member, it is not always clear what use cases are working versus what use cases are not working. Undersecretary Peters said that it would be helpful to hear if Council Members have specific thoughts on how to evaluate and assess what is useful and where the shortcomings are. Lee said he does not want to put more work on the attesting organization, but the forms do not always give the level of detail needed to understand how well the use case is benefiting the organization. Undersecretary Peters said they could assess the federal reporting requirements to determine what the best way to capture this information might be.

**Discussion Item 6: ePOLST Initiative**

*See slides 26-30 of the presentation. The following are explanations from the presenters, and comments, questions, and discussion among the Council Members that supplement the content on the slides.*

Undersecretary Peters introduced the ePOLST initiative, and Kathryn Downes and Daniel Danon presented an update to the council.

Stuntz asked about the timeline, and whether the slides that were shared were updated from an earlier version. Danon clarified that the slides have been updated since an earlier version was presented. Stuntz then asked for confirmation that at the end of this timeline would be the point at which they would buy a system. Danon confirmed that this was the case.

## Conclusion

The next meeting of the HIT Council is scheduled for **May 3, 2021**.

Undersecretary Lauren Peters adjourned the HIT Council at 4:49 p.m.