**Meeting Minutes**

**Health Information Technology Council**

**November 7, 2022**

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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| 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 |
| **Keely Benson** | *Director, Massachusetts eHealth Institute* | Y |
| **John Addonizio** | *Chief Executive Officer, Addonizio & Company* | Y |
| **Damon Cox** | *Assistant Secretary for Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship (Designee for Secretary Mike Kennealy)* |  |
| **Frank Gervasio** | *Project Manager, Executive Office of Administration and Finance* |  |
| **Diane Gould** | *President and Chief Executive Officer, Advocates Inc.* | Y |
| **John Halamka, MD** | *President, Mayo Clinic Platform* |  |
| **Kelly Hall** | *Senior Director, Healthcare Transformation and Innovation, Massachusetts Health Policy Commission (HPC)* | Y |
| **Sean Kay** | *Global Accounts District Manager, EMC Corporation* |  |
| **Dicken S. C. Ko, MD** | *Chief Medical Officer/Vice President of Medical Affairs, St. Liz’s Medical Center, Steward Health Care* |  |
| **Michael Lee, MD** | *Medical Director, Boston Children’s Hospital* | Y |
| **Manuel Lopes** | *Chief Executive Officer, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center* |  |
| **Linda McGoldrick** | *President and CEO, Zillion* |  |
| **Michael Miltenberger** | *Vice President Healthcare Team, Advent International* | Y |
| **Naomi Prendergast** | *President and Chief Executive Officer, D’Youville Life and Wellness Community* | Y |
| **Monica Sawhney** | *Chief of Staff, MassHealth* |  |
| **Emma Schlitzer** | *Manager, External Affairs, CHIA* | Y |
| **Pramila Yadav, MD** | *Private Practice Obstetrics & Gynecology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center* | Y |

**HIT Council Members**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Organization | Attended |

## Discussion Item 1: Welcome

Undersecretary Lauren Peters called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. The Undersecretary welcomed the Health Information Technology Council to the November 7, 2022, meeting.

The **MOTION** that the Health Information Technology Council approve the minutes of the council meeting held on August 1, 2022, as presented/amended was tabled until later in the meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

## Discussion Item 2: ENS Framework Update

*See slides5-9 of the presentation 5-9. The following are explanations from the presenters Pam Boutin-Coviello and Julie Creamer, with additional comments, questions, and discussion among the Council Members that supplement the content on the slides.*

Deb Adair: “Can we see the ENS Reporting?”

Kevin Mullen: “Reporting is done quarterly- but there are immediate improvements already from one of the vendors, with social security numbers and zip codes.”

Keely Benson: Stated she was excited to see the survey results.

## Discussion Item 3: CCG API Update

*See slides 10-12 of the presentation. The following are explanations from the presenter, Julie Creamer with additional comments, questions, and discussion among the Council Members that supplement the content on the slides.*

**Discussion Item 4: HIway Operations Update**

*See slides 13-17 of the presentation. The following are explanations from the presenter, Liz Reardon with additional comments, questions, and discussion among the Council Members that supplement the content on the slides.*

Liz Reardon: “Security issues.  Accounts without users receiving PHI is a concern.

We are also looking at LAND clean up and account clean-up”

“There has been quite a bit of onboarding activity, we are providing consulting services to Community Care Cooperative to make sure they are meeting DPH reporting needs, listing providers in the directory.”

“We’re making outreach efforts with the Mass Cancer Registry to address former paper submitters.

Over the last two years, path labs and others have been sending paper reports to the registry.  The AM team is providing targeted outreach to these ED organizations. We are advising them on using their own direct messaging or connecting them to the HIway. DirectTrust is moving We have heard a lot of challenges from our EPIC customers. We are in discussion with Orion health to make enhancements to the DP, we are creating best practices. “

**Discussion Item 5: EOHHS Updates-BH Treatment & Referral Platform/POLST Program**

*See slides 18-20 of the presentation. The following are explanations from the presenters: Kevin Mullen, and comments, questions, and discussion among the Council Members that supplement the content on the slides.*

Kevin Mullen: “The platform itself will enable all orgs to share referral forms and the admission packet, we have been advised not to announce which vendor, but we are in contract discussions with the vendor right now. Once the contract is signed, we can share specific next steps and the timeline for the implementation. We are happy, it will be a significant improvement with a big reduction in burden on a number of different stakeholders. “

Keely Benson: asked: " Do we have a sense of the timeline of when we are rolling this out. "

Kevin Mullen: "We are expecting contracting finalized before the end of the year.  As far as I know, MassHealth OBH will be taking the lead on this but will be involving others."

Undersecretary Lauren Peters: "I would just add that this is a cross agency effort.  Given, that part the goal is to streamline how carriers are alerted when one of their members is in the psych hospital. Once this moves into steady state, this will primarily be overseen by the Office of Behavioral Health.  The HIway team will continue to be involved. Dr. Lee - do you have a question?

Deb Adair: "Is this required statewide?"

Kevin Mullen: "Yes, it is required."

Deb Adair: "In terms of sharing substance use information, for referrals among different sites, has that been an issue? I know it’s not a problem in the ED.

Kevin Mullen: " I don't think this solves that issue. But part of the proposal includes some workflow modifications that considers these barriers.

Undersecretary Lauren Peters: “42 CFR rules certainly apply.  EOHHS and DMH has plenty of experience working around this.  All of these constraints will remain considerations as they implement.”

Deb Adair: “There are more changes being talked about.  It would make things so much easier if the rules were aligned with HIPPA.  It would be so much more efficient if we can. “

Undersecretary Lauren Peters: “We take every opportunity to comment to the Federal government that we need more flexibility on this.”

Dr. Mike Lee: “Are kids and adolescents intended to be part of this? “

Kevin Mullen: “Yes”

Dr. Mike Lee: “Kids with autism are much more difficult to place.  Keep that in mind.

We have had a number of requests from state to know how long kids are boarding. Is that something we can include in this?

Undersecretary Lauren Peters:  “We can make sure we are leveraging this system not only to get folks out of ED to another setting but also as a way for us to leverage this for data we are already collecting.”

Dr. Mike Lee: “Some kids are just boarding but others are getting some degree of treatment but not the full level of treatment.  There is a big interest in understanding what is happening with the kids.  That's why I bring it up.”

Kevin Mullen: “It’s been a while since Kathryn and Bert presented on this. (POLST) We are happy to announce new legislation is on the gov desk to clarify the authority for EOEA and EHS to develop this program. We are anticipating this will be signed into law in the next few weeks. In regard to an RFR for a statewide procurement for a statewide electronic system. EOHHS has been working with a number of stakeholders. They have identified Lowell General, Cooley Dickinson and   to participate in these cohorts. These activities are underway.  They will be starting formally with the groups in January 2023.

Three months to complete the test phase.  Then they will summarize collective learnings and gaps and use that to inform the ePOLST procurement after that point in time.

Kevin Mullen: “Any questions on the POLST program? “

Keely Benson: “You have the RFP in good shape.  When are you anticipating when that will go out?”

Kevin Mullen: “TBD but RFR has been sent.  And CMS approved.  We want to wait for this test to be completed so we understand what worked and what didn't.  It would not go out sooner than Q2 of next year. “

Undersecretary Lauren Peters: “I would also add that we mindful of extraordinary constraints capacity and staffing shortages. We are trying to be mindful and stay on track.  It will improve workflow, but we need to balance moving forward with the challenges hospitals face. “

Deb Adair: “If the system isn't ready?  What are they testing?”

Kevin Mullen: “They are testing out the change from MOST form to POST form.  They are trying to automate that process and identify the existing communication pathways with that form. “

Undersecretary Lauren Peters: “Two changes are being addressed, the “Mass” specific form is the MOLST, the National form is the POLST form, they are piloting that. The second phase is bringing the POST Form to an electronic format. “

Keely Benson: “This is exciting …that this is happening.”

Undersecretary Lauren Peters: “Kudos to Kevin and team for supporting these and other EHS initiatives”.

## Conclusion: Undersecretary Lauren Peters

Undersecretary Lauren Peters thanked the council members

Undersecretary Lauren Peters: “Motion to accept the minutes of the November 2022 meeting.”

Keely Benson seconded the minutes.

Undersecretary Lauren Peters: “We will need to run through the meeting member list to be sure we have a quorum.”

Liz Reardon went through the meeting member list taking roll call to approve the Nov. meeting minutes.

Undersecretary Lauren Peters:” We need two additional members. We will table this vote until the next meeting. Pam what is the date?”

Pam Boutin-Coviello: “The next meeting is Monday February. 6th “

Undersecretary Lauren Peters: “Happy Holidays!”

Undersecretary Lauren Peters adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p.m.