Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC)

VIRTUAL

Meeting Notes | September 14, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Elise Sweeney Anthony, Executive Director, Office of Policy, ONC, welcomed everyone to the September 14, 2022, virtual meeting of the HITAC and provided an overview of ONC's recent program updates. The co-chairs of the HITAC, **Denise Webb** and **Aaron Miri**, welcomed members, reviewed the meeting agenda, and presented the minutes from the August 17, 2022, HITAC meeting, which were approved by voice vote. **Hans Buitendijk** and **Steven Eichner** presented the Recommendations and Report from the Adopted Standards Task Force 2022 (AS TF 2022), which was followed by a HITAC vote. **Aaron Miri** and **Medell Briggs-Malonson** presented an update on behalf of the HITAC Annual Report Workgroup (AR WG). **Gillian Haney** and **Arien Malec** presented an update on behalf of the Public Health Data Systems Task Force (PHDS TF 2022). HITAC members held discussion sessions following the presentations. No public comments were submitted by phone during the meeting. There was a robust discussion in the public meeting chat via Zoom.
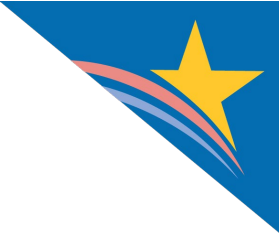
AGENDA

10:00 a.m.	Call to Order/Roll Call
10:05 a.m.	Welcome Remarks
10:15 a.m.	Opening Remarks, Review of Agenda, and Approval of August 17, 2022, Meeting Minutes
10:20 a.m.	Adopted Standards Task Force 2022 Recommendations – HITAC Vote
11:05 a.m.	HITAC Annual Report Workgroup Update
11:35 a.m.	Public Health Data Systems Task Force 2022 Update
11:50 a.m.	Public Comment
12:00 p.m.	Final Remarks and Adjourn

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mike Berry, Designated Federal Officer, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC), called the September 14, 2022, meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. **Steven Lane** shared that he would begin serving as Chief Medical Officer for Health Gorilla in October 2022.

ROLL CALL

Aaron Miri, Baptist Health, Co-Chair
Denise Webb, Individual, Co-Chair
Medell Briggs-Malonson, UCLA Health
Hans Buitendijk, Oracle Cerner
Steven (Ike) Eichner, Texas Department of State Health Services

Lisa Frey, St. Elizabeth Healthcare
Rajesh Godavarthi, MCG Health, part of the Hearst Health network
Valerie Grey, State University of New York
Steven Hester, Norton Healthcare
Jim Jirjis, HCA Healthcare
John Kansky, Indiana Health Information Exchange
Kensaku Kawamoto, University of Utah Health
Steven Lane, Sutter Health
Leslie Lenert, Medical University of South Carolina
Hung S. Luu, Children's Health
Arien Malec, Change Healthcare
Clem McDonald, National Library of Medicine
Aaron Neinstein, UCSF Health
Eliel Oliveira, Dell Medical School, University of Texas at Austin
Brett Oliver, Baptist Health
Raj Ratwani, MedStar Health
Abby Sears, OCHIN
Alexis Snyder, Individual
Fillipe Southerland, Yardi Systems, Inc.
Sheryl Turney, Carelon Digital Platforms (an Elevance Health company)

HITAC MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE
Cynthia A. Fisher, PatientRightsAdvocate.org
James Pantelas, Individual
Raj Ratwani, MedStar Health

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES
Thomas Cantilina, Military Health System, Department of Defense (DoD)
Adi V. Gundlapalli, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Ram Iyer, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) *(Absent)*
Meredith Josephs, Federal Electronic Health Record Modernization (FEHRM) Office
Jonathan Nebeker, Department of Veterans Affairs *(Absent)*
Alex Mugge, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services *(attending on behalf of Michelle Schreiber)*
Ram Sriram, National Institute of Standards and Technology *(Absent)*

ONC STAFF
Elise Sweeney Anthony, Executive Director, Office of Policy
Avinash Shanbhag, Executive Director, Office of Technology
Mike Berry, Designated Federal Officer

WELCOME REMARKS

Elise Sweeney Anthony, the Executive Director, Office of Policy, welcomed everyone, thanked the presenters and task forces and workgroup for their hard work, and provided an overview of ONC's recent program updates, including:

- 2022 ONC Virtual Tech Forum: ONC held the first session of its all-virtual 2022 ONC Tech Forum, which will feature industry perspectives on the progress made in health IT over the past year, and highlight ways

to advance health technology to improve patient care, health equity, data exchange, and interoperability. The sessions are scheduled September 9, 16, and 23. The first theme: Health IT Standards Driving Modernization in Healthcare and Public Health. The Tech Forum highlights improvements in digital health and healthcare, and information can be found on the website at https://www.healthit.gov/news/events/2022-onc-virtual-tech-forum.

- The Sequoia Project, the Recognized Coordinating Entity (RCE) for ONC that supports the implementation of the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA), recently announced new standard operating procedures and the Qualified Health Information Network (QHIN) application. They expect to open the application portal to prospective QHINs on Monday, October 3, 2022. These items are available on The Sequoia Project's website: https://sequoiaproject.org/the-sequoia-project-releases-common-agreement-standard-operating-procedures-sops-and-qhin-application/.
  - o The Sequoia Project will present to the HITAC at its October 13, 2022, meeting.

- ONC Health IT Certification Program Updates, Health Information Network Attestation Process for the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement, and Enhancements to Support Information Sharing Rule: The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) was accepted by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review on September 1, 2022. Once it is released to the public, ONC will ask the HITAC to convene a task force to review the NPRM and provide recommendations during the public comment period. The Unified Agenda has a release date anticipated for October 2022, but this date is subject to change.

- ONC's Virtual Office Hours: Participants can ask questions about information sharing under ONC's information blocking regulations by joining ONC's experts for virtual office hours on September 22, October 6, and October 27, 2022, from 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET.

- United States Core Data for Interoperability Version 4 (USCDI v4): ONC opened the call for new data classes and data elements for USCDI v4.
  - o HITAC members were invited to search "USCDI" on HealthIT.gov to share comments on the draft USCDI v4. The submission period for comments ends on September 30, 2022.
  - o ONC plans to publish the draft USCDI v4 in January 2023, at which point they will reconvene the Interoperability Standards Workgroup (IS WG) to develop draft recommendations.

- The Interoperability Standards Advisory (ISA) annual comment period opened on July 28 and closes on September 30, 2022. HITAC members were invited to submit comments.

OPENING REMARKS, REVIEW OF AGENDA, AND APPROVAL OF AUGUST 17, 2022, MEETING MINUTES

Aaron Miri and **Denise Webb**, HITAC co-chairs, welcomed all members and presenters. **Aaron** thanked the team from ONC for the excellent updates and congratulated **Steven Lane** on his new role. **Denise** thanked **Elise** for the update and also congratulated **Steven.**

Aaron reviewed the agenda for the meeting and invited members to examine the minutes from the August 17, 2022, meeting of the HITAC. **Aaron** called for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was made by **Arien Malec** and was seconded by **Hans Buitendijk**.

The HITAC approved the August 17, 2022, meeting minutes by voice vote. No members opposed or abstained.

ADOPTED STANDARDS TASK FORCE 2022 RECOMMENDATIONS – HITAC VOTE

The Adopted Standards Task Force 2022 (AS TF 2022) co-chairs **Hans Buitendijk** and **Steven Eichner** gave a final presentation from the AS TF 2022 to the HITAC. They also shared the AS TF 2022 Recommendations Report to the HITAC. **Steven** reviewed the agenda for the presentation and described how a requirement of the Cures Act called for the National Coordinator to convene a task force to review the ONC adopted standards. As detailed in the TF's presentation slides, he shared the charge, membership, and approach to work for the AS TF 2022. He described TF members' choices to indicate the disposition status for each of the 55 standards reviewed by the AS TF 2022. The choices were to maintain, phase-out with replacement, or phase-out entirely, and the TF has completed its review of all standards under its charge. He explained that the TF utilized presentations from industry experts to make its recommendations and shared a brief overview of the presentations. He summarized the TF's recommendations document via a slide representing the disposition of each standard by group to give the HITAC a sense of what changes might need to be made to the standards.

Hans explained that the AS TF's final report laid out the standards in like groupings and noted that the co-chairs would not go into each recommendation in detail, but that the detailed recommendation can be found in the report. The groupings included:

- Data Scope and Vocabulary Standards
- General Data Access Standards
- Care Coordination Standards
- Public Health Exchange Standards
- Clinical Quality Measure Reporting Standards
- Privacy/Security Standards
- Accessibility Standards
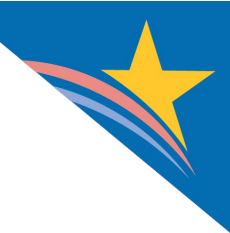- Certification Process Standards

The co-chairs shared key takeaways, which were detailed in the presentation slides, and explained that all the regulated areas supported by the 55 referenced standards have ongoing need for continued support through established standards. They briefly discussed the role of the 21st Century Cures Act (the Cures Act) review process and ONC's Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP). They thanked ONC staff for their support. HITAC members submitted feedback following the presentation.

Denise called for a motion to approve the AS TF 2022 Recommendations. The motion was made by **Jim Jirjis** and was seconded by **Aaron Miri**.

The HITAC voted to accept the AS TF 2022 Recommendations and Report by voice vote. No members opposed or abstained.

Discussion:

- **Steven Eichner** noted any color-coding issues in the legend of the document would be corrected.
    - o **Denise Webb** offered to share her notes on small grammatical errors within the document via email.
- **Steven Lane** asked how ONC is planning to turn the recommendations into a glide path for the industry to ensure that the advanced standards are implemented.
    - o **Avinash Shanbhag** responded that the scope for the TF was to look at adopted standards in

regulations and explained that ONC's role, now, is to investigate updating all the adopted standards. ONC will reference these standards in multiple ways, including the ONC Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP) and the Interoperability Standards Advisory (ISA). Updates will occur periodically. He explained that any updates to standards would be addressed in future proposed rulemaking.

o **Hans Buitendijk** responded to comments shared in the chat via Zoom and explained that there are several standards in the report where the TF found that there are several more current versions of standards available; stakeholders will need to consider the timing of respective changes and updates. He described examples of making changes to public health standards and the Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) standard, adding that the TF held in-depth discussions around which standards could be maintained and which could be replaced. However, he explained that the TF's charge did not allow them to comment on what standards should specifically serve as replacements or when changes should occur.

o **Steven Eichner** explained that the TF was not charged with identifying a timeframe for adopting or identifying possible standards. TF members considered what was currently in place in the landscape and suggested that the next relevant regulatory update be considered.

o **Denise Webb** commented that the work of the TF runs the risk of being out of sync with the proposed rule but deferred to ONC to comment, noting that ONC is likely aware of the nuances of the TF's recommendations.

o **Hans** described the TF's discussions around the regulatory sequencing of their work related to the potential release of the proposed rule in October, noting that the AS TF is set to resume its work on a three-year cycle. He suggested fine-tuning the process for more logical alignment of efforts.

o **Denise** voiced her agreement with **Hans'** comments.

HITAC ANNUAL REPORT WORKGROUP UPDATE

The HITAC Annual Report Workgroup (AR WG) co-chairs, **Medell Briggs-Malonson** and **Aaron Miri**, provided an update on the recent work of the AR WG. **Aaron** thanked **Medell** for her work as a new co-chair and reviewed the WG membership (including supporting ONC staff), meeting schedule, and next steps, which were detailed in the AR WG presentation slide deck. **Aaron** thanked **Michelle Murray** and ONC staff for their support. He described work the WG already completed and explained that the AR WG planned to share a final draft of its report with the HITAC in February 2023 for a vote and subsequent transmittal to the National Coordinator.

Medell thanked all AR WG members and the ONC team for their hard work. She reviewed the draft crosswalk of topics for inclusion in the HITAC Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22), which was detailed in the presentation slides, and explained that the crosswalk considers the gaps, challenges, opportunities, and recommended HITAC activities for a set of key topics across target areas. The topics were grouped in several target areas, which included Design and Use of Technologies that Advance Health Equity, Use of Technologies that Support Public Health, Interoperability, Privacy and Security, and Patient Access to Information. She described each of the potential topics, which were detailed in the presentation slides. She encouraged HITAC members to share feedback on any of the potential items for inclusion.

Aaron explained that all HITAC members should have received updated versions of the AR WG's documents. If members are missing anything, they should reach out to the ONC team. He invited HITAC members to share comments, questions, or feedback with the AR WG co-chairs or Michelle Murray, ONC.

Discussion:

- **Steven Eichner** thanked the co-chairs for their presentation and asked that the AR WG ensure that their topics align with other work underway, especially regarding public health, data standards, and electronic case reporting (eCR). He suggested that the recommended proposed HITAC activities should focus on compliance with existing standards (instead of creating new standards), targeting the right issues, and ensuring that there will be ongoing support for infrastructure.
    - o **Aaron Miri** thanked him for his feedback.
    - o **Medell** stated that all topics/opportunities/recommendations in the crosswalk will be aligned with work being done within the HITAC's task forces and with external partners and stakeholders.
- **Steven Lane** thanked the co-chairs and members of the AR WG for their thoughtful work and deep conversations, and he invited other HITAC members to provide direct and specific input to ONC. He thanked **Medell** for stepping into the role of co-chair of the AR WG as a new member of the HITAC.
    - o **Medell** thanked **Steven**, noting that the creation of the crosswalk of topics was a group effort. She thanked the other members of the AR WG for sharing their expertise.
    - o **Aaron** invited HITAC members to submit comments and asked that they pay particular attention to the new areas around health equity and public health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DATA SYSTEMS TASK FORCE 2022

Arien Malec and **Gillian Haney**, co-chairs of the [Public Health Data Systems Task Force 2022 (PHDS TF 2022) presented on update on the TF's recent activities](). **Arien** explained that is a collaborative effort between ONC and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and shared the overarching specific charges of the TF, which included:

Overarching Charge:
The Public Health Data Systems Task Force 2022 will build upon recommendations from previous HITAC public health-focused task forces to inform ONC's continued collaborative work with CDC on improving public health data systems, and in support of CDC's greater Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) efforts.
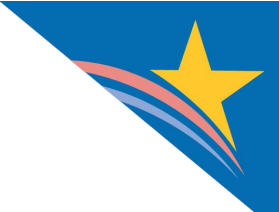
Specific Charge:
The Public Health Data Systems Task Force 2022 shall examine existing public health certification criterion, known as the "(f) criteria" in the ONC Health IT Certification Program, certifying the transmission of data to public health agencies to:

1) Identify gaps in the functionalities and standards included in existing (f) criteria, including gaps in 1) functionality, and 2) implementation by developers. Provide recommendations advancing criteria, testing guidance, and/or standards to address gaps.

2) Assess the specific functions (e.g., receipt of data, ingestion of data, analysis of data) supported by public health data systems that would benefit from further standardization and potential certification.

3) Recommend which data flows, aligned with existing (f) criteria, should be prioritized for standardized receipt of data.

Arien reviewed the PHDS TF 2022 roster and thanked all members, who represent stakeholders from across the ecosystem, for their participation.

Gillian reviewed the timeline of the PHDS TF 2022. She explained that it held a kick-off meeting virtually on

August 17, 2022, and the TF will present its recommendations to the HITAC for a vote at the November 10, 2022, HITAC meeting. She discussed the TF's approach to reviewing the (f) Criteria, determining key questions, and inviting subject matter experts from the industry to present to the TF. She highlighted the public health reporting criteria, which were detailed in the presentation slides, and noted that all criteria point to specific standards and implementation guides (IGs). All are eligible for the SVAP. She shared the questions SMEs used to guide their presentations to the TF and discussed the current status of the TF's efforts, which included the creation of a topics tracker worksheet.

PHDS TF 2022 meeting information, including materials and summaries, will be posted at https://www.healthit.gov/hitac/committees/public-health-data-systems-task-force-2022.

Aaron invited HITAC members to share questions and comments.

Discussion:

- **Steven Lane** thanked the co-chairs for their presentation and commended **Gillian** for joining as a new TF co-chair. He encouraged other HITAC members to consider volunteering to serve as a member or co-chair for upcoming task forces.
    - o **Gillian** thanked **Arien** for providing a framework for the TF meetings and all members for sharing their expertise.
- **Clem McDonald** commented on issues related to adhering to existing standards, incorrect mappings from laboratories, and data quality issues. He stated that the TF should recommend that there is better adherence to standards.
    - o **Gillian** responded that many data quality issues are being addressed by individual jurisdictions and noted that this is an opportunity for a more centralized approach. She described her experiences overseeing electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) in Massachusetts and highlighted efforts to ensure that data quality was upheld as information changed.
    - o **Arien** responded that **Clem's** comments are consistent with feedback the TF has received that the most significant issues with eCR were not the standard and IG but the applicability of trigger conditions to the data (i.e., non-standard lab data). SMEs also spoke about issues with electronic health record (EHR) systems that are not able to discriminate based on SNOMED codes because they only have proprietary terminology internal to their systems (receive trigger codes but cannot fire them). He explained that subpart 3 of the TF's charter refers to the need to not only ensure certification to the standards and IGs but also that data transmission and data use in practice is consistent with the standards and IGs.
    - o **Clem** commented that recent work in this space has led to the ability to automate correction of errors. He described a tool that can help to correct up to 95% of errors in mappings for quantitative results. It has not been published yet.
    - o **Aaron** thanked **Clem** and his team for continuing to advance work in this space.
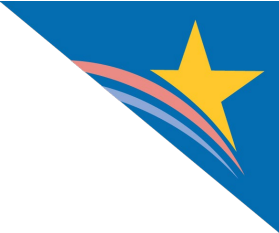
Aaron and **Denise** thanked the co-chairs for their presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Mike Berry opened the meeting for public comments:

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED VERBALLY
There were no public comments received verbally.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA ZOOM WEBINAR CHAT

Steven (Ike) Eichner: Good morning!

Jim Jirjis: Jim Jirjis joined a few min late

Steven Lane: Thank you for those congratulations. I am excited for the opportunity to help advance TEFCA in a new industry role in addition to continuing to bring the experience of a practicing physician to the effort.

Steven Lane: It seems that one of the key questions for ONC is how to orchestrate a response to these recommendations so that the industry has clarity regarding how adopted standards will advance over the coming year(s). As this review process is designed to be predictably repetitive, the response to and implementation of recommendations should be similarly predictable.

Aaron Miri: Welcome Abby and Les!

Aaron Miri: and Jim!

Aaron Miri: Welcome Val! :-)

Chantal Worzala: Thanks for the presentation and thorough review. Did the Task Force evaluate the operational considerations involved in updating systems to these standards as part of your deliberations?

Hans Buitendijk: The charter focused on maintaining/phase out, less on the specific replacement. We did note the need to have an orderly replacement, but it was not within the charter to go to specifics whether one standard replacement would take more than another. You will see in the report that this topic was identified.

Mark Savage: So glad for the work on this target area (design and use to support health equity). Thank you!

Hans Buitendijk: In Public Health the notion of "optimize and align" across data streams, push and pull, are important, while advancing (as needed) each individual stream.

Gillian Haney: thank you all for the opportunity to provide an update today. Look forward to continued discussions.
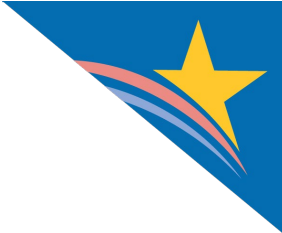
Jorge Ferrer: Thank you all

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL

There were no public comments received via email.

FINAL REMARKS

Mike Berry reminded members that the next meeting of the HITAC will be held on October 13, 2022. All materials and testimony from today's meeting will be made available at https://www.healthit.gov/hitac/events/health-it-advisory-committee-49.

Denise and **Aaron** thanked everyone for their participation, presentations, and discussions. **Aaron** thanked ONC for their support and responsiveness, especially during the current meeting. He reminded everyone that, per the ONC Information Blocking Rule (45 CFR Part 171), healthcare providers must share all electronic health information (EHI) as defined in 45 CFR 171.102 beginning October 6, 2022. As the October deadline approaches, he urged everyone to do their appropriate due diligence. He reminded everyone that ONC's

website has information and materials and that if something is located somewhere else on the internet, it could be outdated or incorrect.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m. E.T.