



Health Information Exchange Coordinating Committee (HIECC) Meeting Minutes

Date: November 15, 2023
Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Location: GoToWebinar

Members Present: Craig Dalton, Tab Harris, Kayvan Amini (joined late) Ankush Bansal, Linda Macdonald (non-member) for Melanie Brown Woofter, Jarrod Fowler (joined late), Bruce Culpepper (non-member) for Dennis Hollingsworth, Peter Kress, Marie Ruddy, Kim Streit, Kimberly Tendrich

Agency Staff Present: Pamela King, Crystal Ritter, ABM Uddin, Jaime Bustos, Chrystal Largent, Corinne Slautterback, Suzanne Kirayoglu, Kim Davis-Allen, Dylan Dunlap

Interested Parties Present: David Shapiro MD., Brian Smart, David Rodriguez, Mary Thomas, Chris Alworth, Arron Parsons, Michael Craigg, Diane Godfrey, David Green, Ashley Tait-Dinger.

Meeting Materials: HIECC Meeting Packet. Copies of meeting materials are posted on: [Health Information Exchange Coordinating Committee \(myflorida.com\)](https://myflorida.com/Health-Information-Exchange-Coordinating-Committee)

Welcome and Call: Mr. Dalton called the meeting of the Health Information Exchange Coordinating Committee to Order at 12:18 p.m. on November 15, 2023. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Mrs. King to call the roll.

Roll Call: Mrs. King took the roll, and noted there was a quorum present. She noted that Ms. McDonald was here in place of Ms. Brown to represent the Behavioral Health Association and that Mr. Culpepper was here in place of Mr. Hollingsworth to represent the Department of Health.

Review and Approval of Minutes and Previous Action Items: Mr. Dalton asked members if they had an opportunity to review the minutes and if there was a motion to approve. Ms. Streit made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Harris seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Dalton asked Mrs. King to review the previous action items. The HIECC members were previously asked to provide additional input related to Mental Health Collaboration opportunities in their communities. The Agency did not receive any additional input from the members, but staff did learn of a project being done in Broward County by the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition. The Agency connected this group with the Northwest Florida Mental Health Task Force for collaboration and will follow up with them in the future.



Agency Updates: Mrs. King provided agency updates. The legislature has committee meetings going on and Agency staff are currently working on following the different bills that have been filed. There have not been many updates directly related to HIE yet this year, but staff members are following anything that might impact the Agency and will provide updates as they happen. The Agency is working on developing their Invitation to Negotiate for the HIE service vendor and anticipate that it will be put out in January of 2024.

Election of Officers for 2024: Mrs. King reminded members of the email that was previously sent out to obtain nominations for officers for the HIECC for 2024. Mr. Dalton and Ms. Ruddy were nominated for Chair. Ms. Ruddy was also nominated for Vice Chair. Both have accepted their nominations. Mr. Dalton asked for a motion to vote for Chair. Ms. Streit made a motion to vote to keep Mr. Dalton as Chair. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously in favor of keeping Mr. Dalton as Chair. Mr. Dalton then asked for a motion to elect a Vice Chair. Mr. Harris motioned to vote on electing Ms. Ruddy for Vice Chair. Ms. Tendrich seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously in favor of electing Ms. Ruddy as Vice Chair.

Legal Work Group Update: Mr. Dalton asked Agency staff to provide the Legal Work Group Update. Mrs. King explained that the SCHIP Advisory Council asked the Agency to reestablish the HIE Legal Work Group to evaluate any legal considerations during the re-procurement of the HIE Vendor and any potential modifications to the HIE infrastructure. The Legal Work Group met on October 10th to discuss the HIE vendor transition and any policy or security considerations associated with that. They specifically looked at the HIE infrastructure, data retention, and the consent process. Mrs. King referenced the meeting summary document that was provided to the members in advance.

Health Information Exchange Vendor Transition: Mr. Dalton noted that the committees discussions and input is solely intended to assist the Agency for Health Care Administration as they look to procurement of a Florida HIE Services vendor. He asked Mrs. King to share the information the Agency had obtained from HIE stakeholders regarding the ENS Solution.

Stake Holder Feedback: Mrs. King explained that the Agency put out a survey to stakeholders, and held listening sessions with the Department of Health, Regional Health Information Exchanges, Health Plans, Practitioners, Community Health Centers, Hospitals/ Hospital Systems, Long Term Care Providers, Behavioral Health Providers, and Accountable Care Organizations.

Input on Current ENS Solution:

Retention of Encounter Data: The feedback was neutral on retaining data and dependent on how data is used.

Key points included:



- Vendor is at a minimum be ISO certified with a preference of being HITRUST certified.
- Time for retention be limited
- Data be maintained in the lower 48 states
- Assurances that the data would not be monetized/sold
- Clearly definitions for data destruction after retention time met

Ms. Tendrich supported the idea of retaining the data for a maximum of two years with the ability for data sources to request destruction of their data every year. Mr. Dalton asked for an opinion on Florida-Centric vs vendor's network-centric data retention. Ms. Tendrich opined that due to the number of snowbird patients in Florida, she would recommend data retained at the national/network level.

Interstate Data: There was limited overall interest in interstate encounter data exchange. Key points included:

- Some providers in the Northern part of the state did express potential interest in border state data
- Some providers in the Southern part of the state were interested in "snowbird" data
- Providers expressed the need for better quality data, including discharge disposition and diagnosis codes, versus additional data from other states

Mr. Culpepper stated that from the public health perspective, DOH would like to have access to encounter data from border states Georgia and Alabama. Ms. Tendrich, Ms. Ruddy, Ms. Streit and Mr. Kress supported interstate data exchange for care coordination. Ms. Ruddy suggested that Florida can leverage PCC's national network for countrywide ADT messages. Mr. Dalton proposed that we must prioritize what is important for Florida providers.

Consent: Respondents thought behavioral health data was more important than interstate data exchange.

Key points included:

- The current consent model works for existing ENS infrastructure
- Hospitals are moving to Opt-Out models
- Alignment with federal changes are needed to minimize cost and impact

Mr. Dalton asked members if Florida should continue with the current consent to receive policy or should Florida switch to the Vendor's recommended consent to share policy. Mrs. King clarified that to share behavioral health data in an interstate model, we have to move to consent to share model, and in that case, data sources have to reverse their policy from opt-out model to opt-in model to share data. She further clarified that that would require them to execute operational and technical changes. Mr. Smart from PCC explained the technical process for sharing data with subscribers mentioning that 90% of data flows through the HIE is related to treatment, payment, and operations for which patient consent is not required; however, for behavioral health data sharing, the consent is a must, and the PCC technology allows safe



sharing of mental health data based on patient consent. Mr. Smart further explained that in the current model, the HIE vendor cannot meet patients’ requests to remove their information from HIE and they need to contact their providers where they consented to share to affect the change. However, the new PCC model will allow the vendor to remove patient information upon requests.

After much discussion, the HIECC recommended the Agency refer the issue back to the Legal Work Group for their input around the consent policy because of the complex nature of the issue.

2024 HIECC Meeting Dates:

Mrs. King presented proposed dates for the HIECC meeting for the next year. The dates were approved with no objection from the members.

- Wednesday, February 14
- Wednesday, May 8
- Thursday, August 8
- Wednesday, November 13

The HIECC will meet again on Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

Public Comments: Ms. Godfrey, who left before this segment began, asked a question earlier in the meeting on getting data from other states to which Mrs. King clarified that that would be the responsibility of the newly procured vendor.

Meeting Summary:

Mrs. King summarized the meeting highlighting the below:

- **Data Retention:** There was no opposition to data retention as long as data security is maintained and there will be no monetization of data.
- **Interstate Data Exchange:** There is an interest in interstate data exchange.
- **Consent Policy:** A complex issue - pros and cons for both “consent to share” and “consent to receive” models. The committee recommends sending the issue back to the Legal Work Group for further consideration.

Action Item:

New Action Item	Owner
Consent Policy: Input from the Legal Work Group	Pamela King



Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, Ms. Streit moved to adjourn, and Mr. Harris seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously, and the committee adjourned.