



**HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE OF CONNECTICUT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PATIENT PRIVACY AND SECURITY MEETING**

**November 7, 2012 MINUTES**

**3:00 – 5:00 PM**

**LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT BY TELECONFERENCE:** Michelle DeBarge, Robert McLean, Ellen Andrews, Demian Fontanella, Audrey Chapman

**PUBLIC ATTENDEES:** Ryan Todd, Susan Israel, John DeStefano (HITE-CT CTO), Chris Kraus (HITE-CT), Peter Armstrong (HITE-CT intern)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Michelle DeBarge called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the meeting September 5, 2012 were approved with minor changes. Chris Kraus asked that full names of participants be included in minutes. Michelle DeBarge asked that the phrase 'on an interim basis' be changed to 'during the transition process at HITE-CT' in the second paragraph on the report on conversation with David Gilbertson.

**Status of HITE-CT, John DeStefano**

John DeStefano reported on the current status of HITE-CT. HITE-CT was initially developed as a utility that would support providers throughout Connecticut. However, there was very little demand for a utility from providers. In addition to that hospitals and integrated delivery networks are in the process of setting up their own health information exchanges. Therefore, HITE-CT has changed its strategy to:

- Implement functionality that will allow it to be self-sustainable within the next two years,
- Work with the regional health exchanges and hospitals to make sure that these regional exchanges are integrated with each other and that they are following common standards to assure privacy and security throughout the state,
- Work with the public agencies to integrate them with regional exchanges in the state and develop a 'learning health information exchange'.

John DeStefano indicated that most health information exchanges and hospitals are in the beginning stages of developing their exchanges. Audrey Chapman stated that it would be useful to review the three main hospitals developing health information: Hartford Health Systems, Yale/New Haven and Danbury Hospital/New Milford. John DeStefano noted that there are a number of other organizations that are developing health information exchanges in the state as well. Demian Fontanella stated that DSS is promoting the use of Patient Centered Medical Homes that will require an HIT infrastructure which includes smaller providers.

John DeStefano is evaluating whether the current setup with six committees (Executive, Legal and Policy, Advisory Committee on Privacy, Technical Infrastructure, Special Populations and Business and Operations) could be reconfigured in a way that would improve coordination with HITE-CT.

John DeStefano indicated that vendors and companies like Quest are incorporating DIRECT into their products. He asked the members of the Advisory Committee to review the documents on DIRECT on the HITE-CT shared directory.

Ellen Andrews pointed out that it is good that we are getting ahead of these issues while the hospitals and the health information exchanges are in the early stages of development. It appears that a state-wide integrated health information exchange will need to handle integration with other exchanges which may choose to use some variation of opt-out, opt-in, opt-out with exceptions, opt-in with restrictions. She felt that the providers' primary concern is about their need to have a smooth workflow and that patient privacy and security would be a concern that is secondary to workflows.

Robert McLean recommended that HITE-CT should have a role in assuring that the different health information exchanges have consistent policies.

The Committee agreed that it would be a good idea to determine how HITE-CT and the Advisory Committee can confer with representatives from hospitals and other entities that are setting up regional exchanges to discuss coordination regarding privacy and security issues. Michelle DeBarge will work with John DeStefano regarding setting up meetings and will get back to the committee on next steps.

### **Reports from Committee Members**

There was not much time to spend on Committee member reports. Demian Fontanella distributed three documents for members to review. Two of the documents refer to an HHS/VET pilot called Data Segmentation for Privacy (DS4P) where they have developed use cases and run tests to determine whether processes are compliant with a patient's consent to disclose information. Demian noted that the systems produced audit trails of the processes. The third document provided by Demian (physician\_ceu\_statute) describes the requirements for physicians to obtain ceu credits.

Michelle DeBarge reminded the group that the Advisory Committee will need to deliver a report of its progress/recommendations to the HITE-CT Board of Directors so the Board can include the report in its own report to the General Assembly, which is due in February, 2013. Michelle asked each Committee member to send by email a summary of what the member would like to include in the report in connection with the member's assigned area (e.g., consumer education, provider education, consent model, sensitive information, safeguards, minors) so the other members can review the proposed content, and the group can finalize the report during the next meeting in January 2013. The Committee will also include in the report information concerning the initiative to coordinate and collaborate with existing regional and system health information exchanges.

### **Public Comment**

Peter Armstrong noted that another DS4P document (SiFramework\_DS4P\_UC\_v20\_20120313) contains more detail on use cases where the patient consents to specified disclosures only, such as disclosures of sensitive information only to specific people at the receiving organization. The use cases, context diagrams and activity charts may provide a useful example of how to describe consent processes that the Advisory Committee may be reviewing.

## **Summary of Action Items**

Michelle DeBarge:

Confer with John DeStefano to set up meetings with health information exchange reps.

All Committee Members:

Prepare content for report to HITE-CT Board of Directors and share with Committee members by email prior to January, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 from 3PM – 5PM. Chris Kraus will set up a meeting room at the LOB and a teleconference number will be provided.