

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2021

4:00-7:00 pm

Regular Meeting

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

Directors Present: Patrick Charmel, Jose Crespo, Allen Davis, Deidre Gifford, Stacia Strouss-Grosso, Claudio Gualtieri, Mark Raymond, Sumit Sajnani, Lisa Stump, Victoria Veltri

Opening:

Vicki Veltri welcomed the Board and called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

Vicki welcomed and introduced Sumit Sajnani, the Connecticut Health Information Technology Office (HITO) to the Board. Vicki then invited Sumit to assume the Chair position.

Sumit introduced a new Connie board member, Jose Crespo of Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center and guest presenter Dan Herens of The Wheeler Clinic.

Roll Call: Tara McGovern called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

September Board Regular Meeting Minutes: Motion: Sumit Sajnani asked for a motion to approve the September regular meeting minutes. Mark Raymond created the motion. Lisa Stump seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. **Motion carried.**

Meeting Agenda: Motion: Sumit Sajnani asked for a motion to approve the November 3, 2021 meeting agenda as submitted. Mark Raymond created the motion. Deidre Gifford seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

I. Reports

- a. Board Chair Report

Sumit thanked Vicki Veltri for her service as interim HITO and Chair of the Connie Board. Sumit also commended the Connie staff for their accomplishments and completed work to date.

b. Executive Director Report

Jenn Searls welcomed both Sumit and Jose and thanked Vicki Veltri for her service.

New Staff: Tony Cincogrono was welcomed to the Connie staff as an Account Manager for the western part of Connecticut.

Jenn provided a review of the progress that Connie has made over the course of its last fiscal year, noting specific milestones and operational accomplishments. She also provided an update on the Technical Assistance Program, 235 organizations completed Milestone 1, 161 completed Milestone 2, 157 completed Milestone 3, for a total amount of \$4,730,000 in funding.

Jenn presented the current state of connectivity at the end of FFY 21. 102 organizations are providing patient panels, 61 organizations are providing ADT's, 52 organizations are providing CCD's, 2 organizations are providing radiology results, 1 organization (with 4 onboarding) are providing discharge summaries, and 115 organizations providing lab results via LabCorp and Quest.

A question was asked about the number of people that are using the system and successfully finding the data they are looking for. Jenn responded that this metric will become available soon as more organizations are onboarded.

Another question was raised about the status of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. Connectivity availability is available now and end user access will be available at the end of this quarter.

An overview of the completed items for the FFY 21 OHS contracts was provided and a look ahead to FFY 22, explaining what portal services that Connie is currently working on.

- It was noted that Connie has an eReferral option and is working to enhance the eConsent service. Connie is also working to develop a provider directory, and Jenn also reviewed future potential use cases.

- Jenn reviewed the FY 22 Connie Contract Budget. The budget totals \$6,628,017 and is milestone-based as was the FY21 budget.

Jenn noted that the FFY 21 budget utilized HITECH funding. The FY22 budget transitions to Medicaid Enterprise System and other state funding sources. Over time, Connie will also be supported through participation and service fee revenues, as per the Connie Sustainability Plan.

Additional information was requested related to communicating the value of Connie with the available metrics. A suggestion was made to have a broad communication strategy that promotes the value of Connie to encourage later adopters to connect with Connie. Jenn noted that Connie staff is working on this, including user stories, and will review it to ensure that usage metrics are included. Connie will provide an update to the Board on this effort.

A clarifying question was asked regarding providers accessing the data in Connie. Jenn explained that some practices are connecting to Connie via the portal, whereas others that need access to Connie via the InContext app (Epic users) are still in the pipeline.

A suggestion was made to add home and community-based providers to Connie in the future planning for Connie. The American Rescue Plan Act includes enhanced funding for home and community-based services (HBCS). DSS has a plan for enhanced payments to home care providers with specific requirements, one of which includes connecting to Connie. Jenn noted that this is currently in the plan, and Connie can work with DSS to determine what data is needed from these providers and how to connect them to Connie.

Another suggestion was made to have a discussion related to Connie access to behavioral health and substance use disorder data. Specifically, what can and cannot be accessed in these two areas. Jenn noted that this is in the Connie planning process.

II. Business Agenda

- a. Patient Access Task Force Update: Dan Herens of The Wheeler Clinic provided an update on the work that the Patient Access Task Force has been doing to develop the Patient Access Policy.

- b. First Read: Patient Access Policy: Dan presented an overview of the Patient Access Policy to the Board including its purpose, what it will and will not do, its limitations and solutions.

A question was raised about how patients would amend their electronic health record. Patients will be asked to return to their provider and make the correction with their provider, and that would eventually populate Connie via the patient's EHR.

Clarifying question related to viewing patient data for patients ages 13 – 17. At this time, patients and their parents/guardians will not be able to view the data during these years, although the providers can. Once the child turns 18, they will be able to view their medical history for the prior years.

Next steps include that Connie will continue to work with Crisp to finalize the technical solution, develop patient education tools, and vet the Patient Access tools, materials and procedures with Connie and/or external consumer groups. Legal counsel will be available at the next meeting to answer any questions from the Board.

A motion was made to accept the policy as a First Read by Lisa Stump and a second by Dr. Allen Davis. There was no further discussion. **Motion carried.**

c. **Approval:**

- i. Connie/OHS FFY22 Contract. A motion was made to authorize the management team to negotiate and enter into an agreement with OHS not to exceed \$6,628,016.76 for FFY 2022. Patrick Charmel made the motion and Mark Raymond seconded. The board discussed the approval process for this agreement with OHS and the board's prior experience with the information in the contract and clarifications were provided. The board amended the motion as follows: to authorize the management team to negotiate ~~and enter into~~ an agreement with OHS to deliver on the funding milestones not to exceed \$6,628,016.76 for FFY 2022.

IV. Adjournment

Motion: Sumit asked for a motion to adjourn. Mark Raymond made a motion to adjourn. Claudio Gualtieri seconded. No one opposed. **Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 5:31 pm.

DRAFT