

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2022

4:00-5:30 pm

Regular Meeting

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

Directors Present:

Sumit Sajnani, Dr. Allen Davis, Mark Raymond, Claudio Gualtieri, Deidre Gifford, Stacia Strouss Grosso.
Absent: Lisa Stump, Pat Charmel, Jose Crespo

Opening:

Sumit Sajnani welcomed the Board and called the meeting to order at 4:02pm

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

December Board Regular Meeting Minutes: **Motion:** Sumit Sajnani asked for a motion to approve the December regular meeting minutes. Dr. Allen Davis created the motion. Claudio Gualtieri seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. **Motion carried.**

Meeting Agenda: **Motion:** Sumit Sajnani asked for a motion to approve the January 5, 2022 meeting agenda as submitted. Stacia Strouss Grosso created the motion. Claudio Gualtieri seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

I. Reports

a. Board Chair Report:

- Sumit reported that OHS received approval of interim methodology for funding from CMS. This allows OHS and Connie to approve their contract and execute the Connie budget.
- Sumit has met with all board and HITAC members individually, as well as other stakeholders. He shared common themes from these meetings. Board meetings will now be scheduled for 90 minutes and may be changed to every other month pending a bylaw change. A new privacy, security and consent advisory subcommittee may be recommended to the board to ensure structures are in place to safeguard data in Connie. Sumit will be working with the board on appropriate roles and responsibilities. Other items included patient informed

consent and Connie sustainability. A comment was made that it is helpful to delineate the different roles of HITAC and Connie boards, particularly when it comes to fiduciary responsibility. Another commenter agreed on the duration and length of meetings, and to allow for additional time at less frequent meetings. Support was offered for the privacy, security and consent advisory committee. A suggestion was made to offer a board orientation or training.

- A description of the roles of the Connie Board and the HITAC board was presented. HITAC is viewed as a statutorily sanctioned thinktank providing advice and guidance on Statewide Health IT including HIE. The Connie board is viewed as responsible for governance and stewardship of the HIE through strategy, oversight, accountability, and advocacy. Inherent duties of the Connie board were also reviewed. A comment was made that it would be useful to have various “real life” examples that demonstrate the value of Connie provides and how Connie fills a gap of perception of EMR’s and the reality. It was noted that a recent webinar involving Dr. Davis touched on the value of Connie.
- b. Executive Director Report: Jenn Searls reported the following:
 - Jenn provided an update of new live feeds to Connie. Connie is starting EMR hubs to streamline connections to Connie and reduce the time, cost and burden to practices to connect to Connie.
 - An update on outreach and communications was provided.
 - Ongoing projects include:
 - BPMH: Display and review of regulatory requirements. A technical team is working on building the displays and sources of data.
 - Image Exchange: Two practices are in the process of implementing Image Exchange
 - |DSS ARPA Program: 75+ community-based services organizations have signed the data sharing agreement with Connie to complete the first step in the process. The next step is racial equity training provided by DSS. Interest and participation is high and discussions are occurring about best use cases for these providers.
 - Updates to Connie policies have been made and will be presented at the February board meeting.
- c. Finance & Audit Committee Report – no report was made as this committee has not met since the last board meeting. The next meeting is January 26th at 5pm.

II. Business Agenda

- **Approval:** Connie 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule. **Motion:** Sumit Sajnani asked for a motion to approve the Connie 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule. Mark Raymond created the motion. Stacia Strouss Grosso seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. **Motion carried.**
- **Connie Statewide HIT Plan**

- Sumit provided an overview of the Statewide HIT Plan and focused on its relationship with Connie.
- **Connie Goals Review**
 - Jenn Searls reviewed the status of the organization's 2021 goals and presented recommended goals for 2022. For 2021:
 - 51% of acute care hospitals connected to Connie (goal = 50%, mandate is 100% by May 3, 2022).
 - 0 clinical labs have directly connected to Connie, however more than 100 organizations have authorized Quest to "copy forward lab results to Connie (goal = 50%, mandate is 100% by May 3, 2022).
 - 70% of providers connected to Connie (goal= 50%, mandate is 100% by May 3, 2023).
 - A sustainability plan was approved in August 2021
 - Four Use Cases are approved and implemented (goal of 3), with three additional in development (goal of 2)
 - Connie board fully appointed by Nov. 2021 and Connie fully staffed.

A comment was made recognizing the effort of the Connie team in achieving these goals
 - For 2022, a theme of Promoting Interoperability is suggested and there are three goal domains:
 - Stakeholder Value
 - Design, develop, and implement 3 new services/use cases
A comment was made that splitting design and development of use cases might be helpful so that there will be use cases under development for future years, rather than focusing on implementing three in one year.
 - Design and development utilization measures to assess effectiveness of Connie.
A clarification question was asked about when the measures would be developed and then implemented. The measures would be developed in 2022 and implemented in 2023.
 - Connectivity
 - Enable processes for hospitals and labs to meet statutory mandate for connectivity, and address options related to organizations that are not connecting to Connie.
 - Operational Excellence
 - Develop and implement fee structure for Connie by end of FY Q4
 - Develop and implement consumer facing communications strategy by end of FY Q4

- **Motion:** Sumit Sajnani asked for a motion to approve the FY 2022 Connie Goals. Stacia Strouss Grosso created the motion. Mark Raymond seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. **Motion carried.**
- **Connie Communications Update**
 - Michelle Puhlick provided an update on Connie communications, including examples of branding, planning and initial communications, outreach and education. Dr. Tom Agresta of UConn Health provided an update on eHealth Podcasts, available on multiple podcast platforms. Dr. Agresta encouraged board members to be in touch with him about when they might be able to record a podcast, as well as any ideas for podcast or webinar topics. A question was raised about measuring the impact of the podcasts. Feedback is being collected and will be provided as it is available. A suggestion was made to provide information about the history and evolution of Connie, perhaps including a legislator. Dr. Agresta also updated the board on webinars available that demonstrate the value of Connie in various applications.
 - Dr. Agresta gave an overview of the Clinical Advisory Council, a pending body to provide insight and feedback about Connie from a clinical perspective. This council reports to Connie Leadership and can provide updates at their request to various stakeholders. This council is slated to begin in February 2022.
 - Communications priorities for 2022 are continuing to build awareness and understanding through outreach, partnering and education. The next steps in the communications plan is to identify a partner to assist with developing and implementing a consumer facing communications strategy and to continue to build out a communications plan and implement expanded resources and opportunities.

1. Adjournment

Motion: Sumit asked for a motion to adjourn. Mark Raymond made a motion, Stacia Strauss Grosso seconded. No one opposed. **Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 5:46 pm.