

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2022 4:00- 6:00 pm

### Regular Meeting

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

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

**Opening:** Sumit Sajnani welcomed the Board and called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

### Reports

#### **Board Chair Report:**

- Sumit reported that the Board will be voting on board meeting dates for the remainder of the year. Jenn will be updating the board on next steps for a board retreat. Sumit will be discussing the Connie participation fee later in the meeting. As requested, additional financial information regarding the changes in the federal cost share from 26% to 40% will be provided.
- Sumit provided a review of the IAPD cost sharing model changes. Sumit highlighted the differences between the two scenarios of cost sharing at 26.6% Federal and 40% Federal. With the increase in the Federal share, the State realizes the additional savings and Connie's budget is not impacted. Additional conversations are being held with state stakeholders to evaluate if the state could allocate additional funding to Connie to supplement participation fee revenue.

#### **Executive Director Report:**

Jenn Searls reported the following:

- Connie connectivity:
  - Jenn provided an update on the status of hospitals connecting to Connie.
  - National Network Connectivity: Connie is connected to eHealth Exchange Hub and through that connection is receiving documents from the Veterans Administration, UMass Memorial, Southcoast Health, CVS Minute Clinic, and NYU Langone Medical Center. Connections with CareQuality are also moving forward. The Clinical Advisory Council has been asked to provide feedback on which other organizations should be targeted for connection.
  - Connie Portal/InContext Application connectivity data was provided to provide greater utilization information. This information will be shared going forward.
- Other Projects

- A dynamic list of organizations participating in Connie is now available on the Connie website. Future enhancements will include an indication of organizations submitting images, as well as filtering capabilities.
- A provider directory is now also available in the Connie Portal.
- Use Cases
  - The Best Possible Medication History working group has provided feedback to CRISP on the initial demonstrated view of the medication history feature that will be available later this year in Connie.

A question was raised about if Connie has a list of organizations that are providing data to Connie but not accessing it. Connie is working on identifying these organizations and reaching out to them to better understand their interoperability and workflows.

Appreciation was expressed on the detailed level of information that is being provided in the connectivity reports.

- Statutory Compliance
  - Jenn reported that all hospitals required to connect with Connie are at some point in the process of connecting to Connie. Quest and LabCorp are forwarding information for providers that are permitting the sharing of lab data. Connectivity requirements for labs are slightly different than others required to connect and Connie and Connie is working with OHS to define those requirements.
- Fall Retreat:
  - A board retreat is being planned for the fall of this year and board members were encouraged to make suggestions on topics that they would like to include for this meeting. A special meeting will likely need to be requested by the Board.
- Connie Measures:
  - Michael Matthews is working with UConn and HITAC members on evaluation of Connie and the measurements and reports necessary to do so. A landscape and literature review are being performed and results will be brought to the board for their review and discussion.

**Finance & Audit Committee Report:** Mark Raymond reported that the committee has met twice since the last Board meeting. Discussions included review of the insurance premium renewals, the evaluation of the Executive Director, and the Connie Independent Audit Report which contained no findings. A special meeting was held in April related to Connie goals and participation fees, which are being discussed later in this meeting. Appreciation was expressed to the Finance and Audit Committee Chair, Mark Raymond, for leading the Executive Director performance review.

### **Business Agenda**

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

**Meeting Agenda: Motion:** Sumit Sajnani asked for a motion to approve the May 4, 2022 meeting agenda as submitted. Pat Charmel created the motion. Mark Raymond seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. **Motion carried.**

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

**Revised 2022 Meeting Dates: Motion:** Sumit Sajnani noted that after surveying board members, the previously proposed meeting dates were acceptable to the majority of the Board. Sumit asked for a motion to approve the proposed 2022 revised Board meeting dates as previously presented to the board. Pat Charmel created the motion. Mark Raymond seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. **Motion carried.**

**Clinical Advisory Council Update:** Dr. Tom Agresta of UConn provided an update on the progress of the Clinical Advisory Council, which has now met twice since the last board meeting. The role of this council is to provide insight and feedback on the functionality, advantages, and limitations of HIE tools, as well as the functionality and value of Connie. Members of the council were shared and intended to be disbursed by geography, specialty/role and represent a diverse population. The committee met again in May and discussed their charter, eReferrals, and national networks. A question was raised about ensuring that all segments of Connie clinicians are represented on the Council, and Dr. Agresta noted that additional members are being considered which include dentists and FQHC clinician also skilled in substance use disorders. Recommendations for additional members are welcome.

**Privacy, Confidentiality, and Security Committee Update (board advisory committee):** Jenn Searls provided a summary of the objective of this committee, which is to ensure that Connie has the structure, process and controls necessary to safeguard the privacy, confidentiality, and security of health information. An ad-hoc work group has been convened to develop recommendations to the board on the structure and process for this committee and they will be reviewing best practices, current assets, and drafting a committee charter. The board will be presented with recommendations for establishment of this committee at the July Board meeting.

**Connie Participation Fee:**

Sumit reminded the board that the HITO can set fees for participating in Connie and a Connie Sustainability Plan accounted for a component of the Connie budget to come from these participation fees. Legal constraints are complicating the assessment of the participation fee, and as such, the participation fee is being paused for FY 23 and FY 24, and alternative revenue options are being explored. Changes in the collection of participation fees will impact the Sustainability Plan as well as Connie Goals and future board discussions are necessary to address these changes. Alternative revenue sources were presented, and a suggestion was made to make legislative changes to address the legal constraints.

**Adjournment: Motion:** Sumit asked for a motion to adjourn. Pat Charmel created the motion. Dr. Allen Davis seconded. **Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 5:37 pm.