Nebraska Health Information Technology Board
Meeting Minutes

Date: March 23, 2023   **Time:** 12:00p   **Location:** Lincoln, NE – in person
Method and date of public notice: Posted to Public Meeting Calendar (nebraska.gov) on 03/16/2023.

1. **Attendance**

Board Members	Present	Online (not active)	Absent	Late
Senator Ben Hansen (ex officio)			X	
Senator Robert Clements (ex officio)	x			
Dr. Kevin Bagley	x			
Manuela (Manny) Banner	x			
Dr. Jessika Benes	x			
Dr. Aimee Black			X	
Dr. Jaime Bland	x			
Dr. Anna Dalrymple			X	
Lynn Edwards			X	
Dr. Douglass Haas	x			
Dr. Kimberley Haynes-Henson	x			
Dr. Mark Latta	x			
Dr. Monalisa McGee-Baratta	x			
Ashley Newmyer	x			
Felicia Quintana-Zinn	x			
Dr. Stephen Salzbrenner	x			
Dr. Phillip Vuchetich	x			

Guests: Kevin Borcher, Melanie Surber, Will Schmeeckle, Naresh Sundar Rajan, Larra Petersen-Lukenda, Meghan Chaffee, Terri Pohl; *public attendees*

Quorum Present? *(9 members required)*: YES
Call to Order (Time): 12:01pm CT

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Manny Banner moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on 12/15/2022 with updates made to member titles as needed; Dr. Monalisa McGee-Baratta seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

3. **Administrative Items**

   Open Meetings Reminder: Meetings are recorded, public may join virtually, in-person meetings require in-person attendance.

New Members: Ex-officio seats – Sen. Ben Hansen as Chair of HHS Committee; Sen. Robert Clements as Chair of Appropriations.

New Board Chair and Vice Chair: Call for nominations as the prior Chair, Sen. Arch, is no longer on the HIT Board now that he is Speaker of the Legislature. Prior Vice Chair of the Board, Dr. Monalisa McGee-Baratta, self-nominated for Chair position with a supporting nomination from Dr. Jaime Bland; voice vote was in favor. Manny Banner self-nominated for Vice Chair; voice vote was in favor.

4. <u>**Project Proposal**</u> **-- Buprenorphine Prescribing for Opioid Use Disorder**
This is a grant funded project housed within the Nebraska Medical Association (NMA). The primary purpose is to determine the number and location of providers actively prescribing buprenorphine for OUD. Secondary investigation will identify prevalence of patients receiving buprenorphine for OUD across the state. Finally, data will support an evaluation of NMA's educational efforts related to OUD.

The investigators are requesting aggregate dispensed data from the state's prescription drug monitoring platform to answer research questions.

Concerns were raised about the patient privacy in areas where reidentification of a patient may be possible due to low patient counts. Specifically, the board wanted to ensure that patients in rural areas could not possibly be identified due to small sample size in their area/county. CyncHealth identified intention to follow the approved small number policy, which ensures patients can not be reidentified based on disease state, demographics or geographical location.

Manny Banner asked if there is a facility identifier in the PDMP data. CyncHealth identified that facility identifiers exist for pharmacies, but not for providers. Providers have DEA numbers, and they would have DEA numbers for 100% of providers for buprenorphine.

Dr. Monalisa McGee-Baratta asked if there is a telehealth concern in relation to providers and what implications that may have on the project request. Will Schmeeckle responded that there isn't a way to track telehealth prescriptions in the PDMP, so it won't be a perfect picture, but it will help to identify where to target more information.
Follow-up question from Dr. Monalisa McGee-Baratta about possible consideration for looking at the therapy individuals are undertaking in combination with buprenorphine; reply that it's a possibility in the future.

A motion was made to approve the project, conditioned upon it is permitted by CyncHealth's small numbers policy to avoid any re-identification risk.

Vote: Felicia Quintana-Zinn moved to approve; Dr. Jessika Benes seconded.

Voting Yes:

> Manuela (Manny) Banner
> Dr. Jessika Benes
> Dr. Jaime Bland

Dr. Douglass Haas
Dr. Kimberley Haynes-Henson
Dr. Mark Latta
Dr. Monalisa McGee-Baratta
Ashley Newmyer
Felicia Quintana-Zinn
Dr. Stephen Salzbrenner
Dr. Phillip Vuchetich

Voting No: None.

Abstaining: Dr. Kevin Bagley noted that he was not present for the first half of the presentation, so he abstains.

Majority of members present voting YES, motion PASSES and the project is approved.

5. **Update – MIPS Query Request**
   Kevin Borcher spoke about MIPS and the CMS Promoting Interoperability program. The "Query of the PDMP" measure is now required and worth 10 points in the reporting scoring. We received three attestation audit requests from participants: Kearney County Health Services, Pawnee County Memorial Hospital, and Mary Lanning Healthcare, which we are completing the data requests pursuant to the policy adopted by this Board.

6. **HIE & PDMP Usage Stats**
   Dr. Jaime Bland walked through several graphs that showed Nebraska's PDMP Utilization and HIE Utilization data from 2022.

7. **Demo – Research Hub**
   Naresh Sundar Rajan provided an overview of CyncHealth's Health Data Utility Infrastructure for research and informatics. He then demonstrated how to access the research hub, where to input different schematics to locate specific data, and how to view certain charts.
   Ashley Newmyer asked if this hub was public now; it is not currently public, but in the testing phase with UNMC.

8. **Workflow Integration Policy**
   Kevin Borcher spoke about Nebraska's PDMP workflow integration work and its alignment to CMS requirements to query prior to prescribing. Hospitals who are waiting for implementation of workflow integration have asked CMS for an exception, which CMS responded that no exception would be granted due to the mature HIE and PDMP systems in Nebraska. To reduce provider burden, the workflow integration policy is presented by Kevin which would permit CyncHealth to perform these projects in alignment with Nebraska statute. The policy states that it allows facilities to share PDMP data as long as they have privacy protections in place that meet the requirements of said policy. Part of this policy states that CyncHealth will provide a

report to the HIT Board of existing and recently implemented integrations with healthcare facilities.

A note was made to ensure that the "Roles" section of the policy document has appropriate information before finalizing the document.

Vote: Dr. Kimberley Haynes-Henson moved to adopt the policy; Dr. Stephen Salzbrenner seconded.

Voting Yes:

> Dr. Kevin Bagley
> Manuela (Manny) Banner
> Dr. Jessika Benes
> Dr. Jaime Bland
> Dr. Douglass Haas
> Dr. Kimberley Haynes-Henson
> Dr. Mark Latta
> Dr. Monalisa McGee-Baratta
> Ashley Newmyer
> Felicia Quintana-Zinn
> Dr. Stephen Salzbrenner
> Dr. Phillip Vuchetich

Voting No: *None.*

Abstaining: *None.*

Majority of members present voting YES, motion PASSES.

9. **Update – Claims Data Ingestion**
   Melanie Surber spoke about the currently participating payers; BCBS, NTC, and Medica with outreach continuing to all remaining payers. Next steps would be to include social care data.

10. **Update – Parkinson's Data Request**
    Naresh Sundar Rajan showed aggregate demographic data from 2018 to 2022 of patients with Parkinson's encounters and patients with anti-Parkinson's Rx filled as per DHHS guidelines.

11. **Adjourn:** Dr. Monalisa McGee-Baratta moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:50pm, Dr. Jaime Bland seconded. Voice vote; motion approved.

    Next Meeting: The next meeting for the HIT Board is a virtual meeting on June 15, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature _____