

IMPROVING YOUR CARE THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF HEALTH INFORMATION
Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

PA eHealth Partnership Program Advisory Board Meeting Date and Location

Meeting Date: Friday, May 6, 2022
Meeting Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Meeting Location: Microsoft TEAMS Meeting

Roll Call

Advisory Board Members

Ms. Pamela Clarke – Senior Director, Quality, Health Promotion Council
Mr. Martin Ciccocioppo – Director, PA eHealth Partnership Program, Department of Human Services
Mr. Joseph Fisne – VP/Associate Chief Information Officer, Geisinger Health System
Mr. Scott Frank – Chief Information Officer, Capital Blue Cross
Dr. Brian Hannah – Vice President, Chief Medical Information Officer, Mercy Health
Dr. Timothy Heilmann – Chief Medical Information Officer, UPMC Susquehanna Health Medical Group
Ms. Teri Henning – CEO, Pennsylvania Homecare Association
Mr. Michael Humphreys – Chief of Staff, PA Insurance Department
Ms. Julie Korick – Chief Financial Officer, PA Association of Community Health Centers
Ms. Minta Livengood – Volunteer **[EXCUSED]**
Mr. Paul McGuire (Vice Chair) – Chief Operating Officer, Quality Life Services
Ms. Katie Merritt, Director of Policy & Planning – PA Insurance Department
Dr. Michael A. Sheinberg – Chief Medical Information Officer, Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health
Mr. Jared Shinabery – Deputy Secretary for Health Innovation, PA Department of Health
Mr. David F. Simon (Chair) – Chief Legal Affairs Officer, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Ex Officio Members (HIO representatives awaiting legislative appointment)

Mr. Don Reed, SVP and Chief Operating Officer, HealthShare Exchange
Ms. Phyllis Szymanski, Director, ClinicalConnect HIE

PA Department of Corrections (DOC) Staff

Philip Coady, Health Administrator
Erica Gipe, EHR Project Manager

PA Department of Human Services Staff

Ms. Kathleen Beani – PA eHealth Partnership Program
Mr. Jeremy Buss, Bureau of Information Systems, Delivery Center
Ms. Dana Kaplan – PA eHealth Partnership Program
Ms. Debra Kochel – PA eHealth Partnership Program
Ms. Aleissa (Lisa) McCutcheon – PA eHealth Partnership Program
Mr. Allen Price – Health and Human Services Delivery Center
Ms. Kay Shaffer – Health and Human Services Delivery Center
Ms. Christy Stermer – PA eHealth Partnership Program

Guests

Mr. Doug Carroll, Mt. Nittany Health System
Ms. Kim Chaundy, KeyHIE
Ms. Julie Crouse, Vice President, Technology Operations, Solution and Technology -- Cognosante
Ms. Alix Goss, Imprado
Mr. Richard Kerr, Lehigh Valley Health Network
Ms. Heather King, PA Medical Society

Mr. Michael Minear, Lehigh Valley Health Network
Ms. Christina Roberts, Lehigh Valley Health Network
Dr. Sushma Sharma, Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania
Mr. Patrick Weiss, Imprado
Dr. Margaret Zalon, The University of Scranton Department of Nursing

Welcome and Introductions

Chair David Simon welcomed participants. He noted that Ms. Julie Crouse would provide an update today on Cognosante's progress in the new P3N project. He also acknowledged that Ms. Katie Merritt was appointed to the Board as the new PA Insurance Department representative, replacing Mr. Michael Humphreys, who was named Acting Insurance Commissioner on February 28, 2022.

Review of February 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The members voted to approve the February 4, 2022 Meeting minutes as distributed.

Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) Overview

Mr. Michael Minear, Sr. Vice President and CIO, gave a presentation highlighting LVHN's services and accomplishments. Mr. Minear noted 2 new LVHN hospital locations opening soon: Dickson City and Lehighton PA. LVHN Cedar Crest is the most active hospital in the state of PA. LVHN's location on Rte. 33 opened a large ER, and a new Cancer Center will be opening in 2023. Six out of nine LVHN hospitals have been named # 1 in the nation in various categories. One major focus for LVHN is on Image Exchange, which has been a discussion among several HIOs as well.

In a three-month period (Feb 1st through May 6th) LVHN has processed over 540,212 patient records, and 1.8 million images via Athena. They have two vendors, Ambra (as of December 2021) and Lifelimage (as of August 2021) to share radiology clinical images; between August 2021 and April 2022 they processed over 28,000 radiology images alone. There is a lot of potential in EKG and referrals for more advanced cases. This eliminates the need for CD-ROMS or images having to be re-taken.

At the college level, LVHN has established 2 Student Health Centers, at Cedar Crest College and East Stroudsburg University; with an expectation of more post-secondary institutions to follow. Mr. Minear also noted that LVHN has a connection to FindHelp, a Resource and Referral Tool platform connected to their EPIC EMR. Just within zip code 18101, there are 2,073 programs and more to come. The focus for this SDOH work is the Pool Institute for Health.

LVHN has a Patient Portal, MY LVHN, which consists of 840,567 patients. LVHN received a \$10 million grant from the Dorothy Pool Trust for Health Analytics. LVHN creates portals out to communities, and they have community partners in Allentown City school districts, Department of Health and the CDC. Mr. Minear also noted LVHN's work with Ms. Vicky Kistler, director of the Allentown Health Bureau. LVHN has employed mobile vaccination vans to go to nursing homes and vaccinate elderly residents. Their Street Medicine program, in which doctors, nurses and other providers go outside hospitals and offices to treat homeless people on the streets and in rural encampments throughout the year.

Ms. Christina Roberts stated that LVHN's HIO onboarding with IBM went well, and she was glad that LVHN was back in the HIO community, after their attempt to join several years ago. She stated that during the current process with Cognosante, there was a bit of a challenge to connect to their project management and the cadence of conversation. As an HIO, LVHN is thinking about what the future state looks like, and whether there may be gaps between LVHN's current connectivity and this new/P3N connectivity. LVHN joined the HIO community within months of the IBM contract ending. It was then decided that LVHN will be onboarded to the ADT service under the new P3N Cognosante solution, instead of LVHN onboarding to the P3N ADT Service currently under IBM.

Chair Simon noted the presumed overlap of patients, due to the proximity of St Luke's University Health Network (SLUHN) to the LVHN space. Mr. Minear agreed, noting that both health systems also use EPIC for their EMR, adding that SLUHN also uses Ambra.

Cognosante P3N Progress Report

Ms. Julie Crouse returned to present the progress made by Cognosante for the new P3N solution. In February, she had presented an ambitious schedule to the Board which was positive and optimistic. At today's meeting, she noted a few changes made by the P3N Project team after issues had arisen regarding communication between Cognosante and individual HIOs. One major change was that Ms. Crouse began attending all HIO onboarding meetings on a regular basis. Also, Cognosante decided to modify their data source onboarding approach to the P3N Project, partially mimicking what IBM had done when they were creating and implementing the original P3N. Ms. Crouse noted updates to the P3N Roadmap, a metrics of progress made thus far, and Risks and Issues on both HIO and PA eHealth levels. She shared information noting where Cognosante met and did not meet due dates and gave a high-level view of the different environments they use.

She noted very good collaboration at the start of the Project in the first 3 months for knowledge transfer between Cognosante and IBM, as well as Cognosante and the HIOs. They did monthly User Accepted Testing (UAT) cycles and biweekly Sprint reviews. Cognosante intends to have all 7 participants (5 HIOs, DHIN and PA DOC) connected in TEST by June 2022, followed by a UAT session on July 5, 2022.

Ms. Crouse noted that, as soon as the HIOs give their OK, Cognosante can help them with the cutover from IBM to the new P3N solution. The last milestone entails finalizing requirements for go-live. All JAD sessions will be completed, and more sessions will be scheduled, especially on Security. The PHG Integration team will be doing their work between July and December 2022. During Ms. Crouse's presentation, there was a question posed in the CHAT about the meaning of 'JAD session'. A Joint Application Development (JAD) session is a structured, facilitated workshop of sorts; these sessions are meant to help refine and retain the understanding of what is required to get the job done.

Dr Michael Sheinberg asked about the due date of May 2022 (shown on one of the slides presented today) to get several HIOs connected. Ms. Crouse said they need to get the 5 HIOs, DOC and DHIN ready, and admitted Cognosante cannot get all of this done by the end of May 2022, but possibly by June 30, 2022.

Mr. Joseph Fisne commented that Cognosante should be given a lot of credit, as this P3N Project is a very tough lift. Ms. Crouse then thanked Mr. Fisne and acknowledged Mr. Ciccocioppo for his leadership and patience.

There were questions about the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Team, and Ms. Crouse noted three components: An Operations Manager, a Product Support Engineer and a Help Desk Team (to handle assessment, routing and tracking of Tickets).

Mr. Fisne asked if Cognosante does a Change Management Report, and Ms. Crouse replied that she could provide Mr. Ciccocioppo with a Report to send out later today. Ms. Crouse then noted several changes to the Project Roadmap, stating that, instead of 2 HIOs, only 1 had been connected so far; instead of having 3 groups to connect at different times, Cognosante will first get 2 HIOs connected, then work on the other 5 Participants' connection.

For the Provider Directory, Cognosante will have eSante and FHIR Repository and the DHS Data source. Although Cognosante will be using Verato for other facets of the P3N Project, they will not be using it for the Provider Directory portion of it. Ms. Crouse also noted that work with Single Sign On (SSO) and CWOPA (pertaining to Commonwealth Users) is in progress. But Proof Key for Code Exchange (PKCE) is temporarily on hold; Cognosante needs to work with SSO to get that done first, then will work on PKCE.

In a look at Schedule Metrics, Ms. Crouse acknowledged that 6 tasks were currently late. Cognosante has a Risks and Issues Dashboard, and they meet weekly to review it. They have identified 67 Risks and she noted some of those have already been closed out/resolved. Chair Simon commented that HIO Integration noted in the slide/diagram would be a very high risk, noting the May 30 due date for 3 HIOs and the June 30 deadline date for the other 4 Participants. Ms. Crouse replied that Cognosante will be meeting with the Participants to get their buy -in of those dates She added her opinion that both HSX and CCHIE could be partially connected by May 30 and that DHIN and DOC could be connected by June 30.

Mr. Ciccocioppo advised that MNX is currently one of our HIOs, but it is closing in July 2022, so they are not being transitioned into the new P3N solution with Cognosante. Of the 9 facilities connected to MNX, Mt. Nittany Health is joining up with KeyHIE in July 2022, but we have no information on which HIO(s) the other 8 MNX facilities will be joining at this point.

In the last part of her presentation, Ms. Crouse noted 6 main points in Lessons Learned thus far:

- (1) Weekly status meetings have been changed to Onboarding meetings, much in the same fashion that IBM held these meetings for the original P3N.
- (2) An issue with VPN forms resulted in 2 takeaways: Ensuring the correct forms were used, and which sections were required to be completed.
- (3) Cognosante's double encryption allowed Participants to receive items, but they could not open them; a solution was found to enable Participants to access those items while maintaining their security protocols.
- (4) Cognosante had a very optimistic start. There was an early kickoff before their environments were fully established and before a strategy was made, regarding parallel production feeds and which environments to connect to (HIOs and Cognosante).
- (5) Schedule expectations: The initial decision to focus on key milestone dates (such as 'establishing connectivity in QA by 5/30') was not granular enough; a more robust schedule should have been agreed upon at the kickoff and reviewed weekly.
- (6) Lastly, Cognosante has adjusted their overall communication, cadence and processes by which they will continue to onboard the 5 HIOs, DHIN and new P3N solution.

At the conclusion of Ms. Crouse's presentation, Mr. Fisne reiterated his earlier comment about the Project being a 'hard lift'. Chair Simon invited Ms. Crouse to return to the Advisory Board meeting in August to provide an update on the P3N Project. Ms. Alix Goss applauded Ms. Crouse's great leadership in getting Cognosante onto the right path with partners and players, and she echoed Mr. Fisne's comment, adding 'This is not easy'. She then noted that we are in a good place and have great commitment.

Health Information Exchange Trust Community Committee (HIETCC) Updates

Chair of the HIETCC is Mr. Keith Cromwell of CPCHIE, who served in the liaison role to give the HIETCC summary. Prior to this meeting, all participants received a packet containing copies of the HIETCC Meeting Minutes for January 5, February 9, and March 2, 2022, as well as the HIETCC Meeting Agenda for April 6, 2022. We provide HIETCC meeting documents to the Advisory Board at every quarterly meeting to keep them apprised of topics and issues that are raised, and to summarize the work being done by the HIOs. Mr. Ciccocioppo noted that Chair Cromwell does not usually attend these Board meetings, so he would welcome feedback from the Board on HIETCC issues

Chair Cromwell first noted that final submissions were due by next Thursday, May 12, 2022, for HIOs applying for the Resource and Referral Tool (RRT) grant, and that this will help the HIOs pick an RRT vendor and work with them over the next 18 months on SDOH in PA communities. In addition to the RRT grant, other topics presented and discussed over the past several HIETCC meetings included: Our vendor transition from IBM to Cognosante for the new P3N/PHG solution; the certification of a sixth

HIO, Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN); interstate ADT data sharing with the Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN): We hope to leverage that connection to add connections with Maryland, West Virginia and Washington, DC. There were also discussions at HIETCC meetings about HIO support for Public Health Reporting, the new PDMP and challenges with PA SIIS.

There are two Home Health Agency (HHA) grants (using ARPA funding) currently in legal review, which will later be published. HIETCC also hosted a presentation of the NCQA Data Aggregator Validation Program, and HSX is already using it, especially for Payers. The PA eHealth team also provided the HIETCC with updates on P3N operations and electronic case reporting (eCR). Another topic discussed was the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA), particularly focused on Qualified Health Information Networks (QHINs) and the question of how PA eHealth and the HIOs fit in.

Chair Cromwell concluded his HIETCC update by stressing that the 'next big thing' on the health information exchange radar is image exchange, which Mr. Minear noted earlier in his LVHN presentation. Mr. Ciccocioppo reminded attendees that the HIETCC has met on a regular monthly basis since November 2013 and that illustrates the strong leadership shown by both the HIO community and PA eHealth over the years. He also thanked the Advisory Board for their feedback over the years and Mr. Joseph Fisne thanked Dr. Michael Sheinberg for his hard work as well.

PA eHealth Partnership Program Accomplishments and Initiatives

Accomplishments

In March we trained Labor and Industry staff in the Bureau of Disability Determination (BDD) on use of the P3N to help them improve both timeliness and cost-effectiveness of disability determinations; our Annual Report for 2020-2021 was approved and submitted to the General Assembly; the \$18 million RRT (RFA 03-22) was released on the PA eMarketplace, with applications due May 12, 2022.

We provided an in-person P3N overview and technical training for PA Department of Corrections Health Administrators in April. In May, there were two important events: CMS approved Pennsylvania's five-year State Medicaid Health IT Plan (SMHP), and PA eHealth and the Promoting Interoperability (PI) Program team was recognized as a finalist in the 2021 Governor's Award for Excellence (GAE). Mr. Ciccocioppo also noted that, between 2009 and the sunset of the PI Program in 2021, a total of nearly \$500,000,000 was awarded to providers in the state of Pennsylvania.

Initiatives

PA eHealth is working to get various DHS program care plans integrated into the new P3N Care Plan Registry (such as OB Needs Assessment Form, PH/BH MCO Integrated Care Plan, etc.). PA eHealth continues to work with CRISP and the West Virginia Health Information Network (WVHIN) to expand interstate ADT sharing. The Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN) is interested in expanding its P3N interoperability beyond ADT sharing. Mt. Nittany Health Exchange has decided to close the MNX. HIO when the IBM P3N shuts down at the end of July 2022. As noted by Chair Cromwell in his HIETCC recap, the 2 RFAs that are focused on HHAs are currently in legal review.

Mr. Ciccocioppo concluded his summary of PA eHealth initiatives by noting that PA eHealth is evaluating the possibility of becoming a QHIN or connecting as a downstream participant of a QHIN. There is no formalized QHIN application. The industry is still waiting for information from the Sequoia Project (ONC's Recognized Coordinating Entity – RCE), about the application process and costs associated with becoming a QHIN. Cognosante has provided PA eHealth with a verbal recommendation to pursue becoming a downstream participant of a QHIN (such as the national eHealth Exchange), but we have yet to receive a written recommendation from Cognosante on this subject.

Mr. Ciccocioppo announced that Mr. Allen Price will be retiring, noting July 1, 2022 would be Mr. Price's last day as a full-time state employee. After spending most of his career in private industry, Mr. Price joined the Commonwealth in 2010, and spent the past ten years building, improving, and maintaining

the Pennsylvania Patient and Provider Network (P3N). Mr. Price has been a constant, invaluable asset to both the PA eHealth Partnership Authority, and the PA eHealth Partnership Program under the Department of Human Services. We are pleased that Mr. Price has agreed to help PA eHealth and Cognosante with the implementation of the new, enhanced P3N on a part-time basis, from August to December 2022. Mr. Ciccocioppo asked attendees to join DHS in thanking Mr. Price for all he has done to further interoperability in PA and in wishing him a long, enjoyable, healthy retirement.

Mr. Price recalled Ms. Alix Goss hiring him back in April 2013, and Ms. Goss said she appreciated the time spent working with him as well. Mr. Price noted that system integration was his specialty, and that his work with PA eHealth was quite a way to end a forty-year career. He then thanked everyone for their good wishes, and Chair Simon thanked him as well.

In closing remarks, Chair Simon commented that a lot more conversation will take place when we meet in August 2022. Unless there is an adverse change pertaining to Public Health in Pennsylvania, we will be meeting in person for the August 5, 2022, and November 4, 2022, Advisory Board meetings. Chair Simon then asked if there were any objections to this. Hearing none, he averred that we plan to hold both of those remaining 2022 meetings in person.

Mr. Ciccocioppo stated for those coming to the August 2022 meeting in person, it will be held at the current location of the PA eHealth Partnership Program, which is the new Harrisburg Uptown Building (HUB), 2525 North 7 Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110, in the first- floor conference room. He acknowledged that others may still be operating under travel restrictions, so those individuals will have the opportunity to attend virtually, via TEAMS.

Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

Action Items

- Make available a composite slide deck of today's meeting (Including LVHN and Cognosante presentations) – PA eHealth
- Provide detailed P3N Project Update/Report to Advisory Board in June/July 2022 (prior to August 5, 2022 meeting – Mr. Martin Ciccocioppo and Ms. Julie Crouse, Cognosante
- Plan for August 5, 2022 meeting to be held in person – PA eHealth
- Provide detailed P3N Project Update/Report to Advisory Board during August 5, 2022 meeting – Ms. Julie Crouse, Cognosante

Proposed 2022 Advisory Board Meetings

Friday, August 5, 2022 in-person at 2525 Seventh Street, Harrisburg, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (1st floor conference room)

Friday, November 4, 2022 in-person at 2525 Seventh Street, Harrisburg, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (room location TBD)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Approved: August 5, 2022