

Access Health CT Strategy Sub-Committee Meeting **MEETING MINUTES**

Location: CT Historical Society
1 Elizabeth Street
Auditorium
Hartford, CT
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2013
Time: 1:00 p.m.

Members Present

Mary Fox; Vicki Veltri; Anne Melissa Dowling; Bob Tessier

Members by Phone

Cee Cee Woods

Members Absent

Bob Scalettar

Other Participants

Kevin Counihan; Jim Wadleigh; Matt Salner; Grant Porter; Paul Philpott; Dr. Victor G. Villagra, UConn TRIPP Center

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Co-chairperson Mary Fox called the meeting to order at 1:00p.m. Co-Chairperson Fox introduced presenter, Dr. Victor Villagra. Co-chairperson Fox reiterated the committee's intent which involves determining some of the larger issues which surface during Exchange implementation, to gather stakeholder ideas and input, and give consideration to these strategic options.

II. CONN-ADE Grant Initiative

Dr. Villagra provided a brief background of his expertise within the health technology industry, stating that he spent seven years with Cigna as an executive with broad responsibilities across medical management. Dr. Villagra now runs a consulting firm called Health & Technology, Inc., in which he stated the focus of his practice is to improve the quality and reduce the cost of chronic care. More recently Dr. Villagra joined the Ethel Donaghue Center for Translating Research into Practice and Policy (TRIPP). He also recently co-chaired the State's Health Technology Work Group (HTWG).

Dr. Villagra provided his presentation objectives which included linking the perspective of the HTWG to support the realization access health CT (ahCT) vision, identifying barriers and opportunities to optimize the impact of state HIT investments and data coordination; as well as to present the CONN- ADE opportunity.

Dr. Villagra informed the group of the charge of the HTWG which included providing recommendations for consideration by the full Health Care Cabinet ([Cabinet](#)). Dr. Villagra shared a summary of the findings of the Committee which met for over a year. Dr. Villagra stated that the HTWG developed two recommendations; the first of which was the recommendation of the creation of a CT Office of Health Information Technology

Coordinator, as well as a supporting organization responsible for the integration of all of the agencies HIT investments. Dr. Villagra remarked that the work group envisions the Exchange being part of this integration. Dr. Villagra further stated that acting under the authority of the Governor, the position would report directly to the Office of the Governor or the Lieutenant Governor. The second recommendation was for the creation of a convening forum called the HIT-Business Forum. The forum will convene multiple stakeholders on a regular basis to share ideas, exchange knowledge, share best practices and support health reform goals and objectives. Mr. Villagra noted that currently these two recommendations are sitting with the Cabinet. He remarked that the investment of time, effort and money could have significant returns for the state should it decide to go that way.

Dr. Villagra presented to the group a multi-layer diagram which represents the way the HTWG perceived the current status of health technology throughout the State, and described the various layers within the chart. ([Flow Chart](#)). Dr. Villagra later described a scenario in which a hospital does not have the software to read a film which was performed at a different facility. He noted that the decision to acquire software to allow the free flow of the information regardless of its point of origin is desirable; noting that currently there are no regulatory requirements around this. A discussion of return of investment (ROI) developed. Co-chairperson Fox asked if the HTWG measured ROI and if so, what was measured. Co-Chairperson Fox also asked if the group has developed ideas around other measures which need to occur in order to redefine ROI. Dr. Villagra explained that the group conducted a very granular analysis of cost reduction to measure ROI; they assessed the impact of the reduction of paper and of paper records; they also assessed the reduction in staffing requirements. Dr. Villagra noted that the group did a very sound job at dissecting all of the elements that could be considered related to the acquisition of an electronic medical record. Co-Chairperson Fox asked if in addition to measuring the *operational improvements*, if health outcome was also measured. Dr. Villagra responded no; that the group needs to adjust its terminology and not so much turn an adjustment for the *practice* but the *value* of the service. Conversation ensued.

Dr. Villagra explained that the Connecticut Agency Data Exchange (Conn-ADE), which is a group of UCONN researcher's, received a number of grants in 2005-2006; resources remain but will expire as of June 30th 2013. Dr. Villagra explained that Conn-Ade has done work in mapping out the data needs to promote coordination across agencies to service individuals with their focus being reducing disparities. The group is considering establishing a group of healthcare researchers which will work towards mapping out and modeling the data requirements from the APCD. The group would like to have some continuity of its work and hopes to join forces with the APCD. Conversation ensued around the State's development of an APCD.

I. Review and Approval of Minutes – February 21, 2013 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Co-Chairperson Fox requested a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2013 meeting. Bob Tessier made the motion. The motion was seconded. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

I. APCD Follow-up

Kevin Counihan provided a brief status on the APCD. A search firm is being procured to recruit an executive director.

I. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

II. Next Steps

Co-chairperson Fox expressed concern about sustainability for the subsidy and welcomed future discussion. Conversation ensued. Bob Tessier suggested reading the Time magazine cover story titled Bitter Pill,

requesting Staff distribute to the Board. The Committee discussed upcoming presenters and presenter ideas. Co-Chairperson Fox announced that CEO of Hartford Healthcare, Elliott Joseph, will present to the members in June. Anne Melissa Dowling suggested the group engage the head of UConn and/or Quinnipiac to present on what they're doing and what their hurdles are in terms of graduating and retaining in Connecticut, post graduations PCPs . Members discussed ACO strategies, the barriers around public sharing of information, and future potential speaking opportunities.

III. Adjournment

Co-chairperson Fox requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Tessier made the motion. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Resources:

[Agenda](#)

[Minutes of Previous Meeting](#)

[Presentation](#)

*As approved by the Committee on
April 18, 2013*

The next meeting is scheduled to be held at 1:00 pm. on April 18th at the CT Historical Society