

**Arkansas Healthcare Transparency Initiative Board Meeting Minutes**

**July 14, 2020 (via Skype)**

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| Board Members Present | Others Attending  | ACHI/AID Staff Present  |
| Chad AduddellJill ArnoldJeff BrinsfieldCal Kellogg John RyanBrad MartinJayme MayoDoug WeeksAustin Porter | David JonesJanet MannDennis SmithAlan McClainBill LacyLesia Carter | Jennifer Wessel John LyonJohanna ParsonsKenley MoneyDanielle TaylorKathy HartCraig WilsonDr. Joe Thompson |

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

 Chair Cal Kellogg opened the meeting by recognizing a quorum and proceeded to call the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

There was a motion to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2020, meeting with minor modifications. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. HTI Rebranding**

 Mr. Craig Wilson updated the board regarding the Healthcare Transparency Initiative, which is actively working with the Insurance Department on a new marketing scheme that includes rebranding and designing a new logo.

**IV. Data Requests**

* **NTT Data**

Mr. Wilson stated the NTT Data request has been returned to the Data Oversight Committee for consideration of requests for hospital discharge data for the uninsured and emergency department data. Mr. Wilson said he had though these requests were

* **DecisionQ**

Another data request was from DecisionQ, a predictive analytics company that is seeking APCD data for use in predictive modeling on substance use disorder and treatment of the disorder. The company approached Arkansas due to the state’s reputation for having some of the cleanest claims and enrollment information available.

There were concerns and questions regarding the data request from DecisionQ. Chair Kellogg questioned what would be provided back from the data set and how the state would benefit. Mr. Brad Martin asked about funding sources and plans to utilize the technology and algorithms in the future. Ms. Jill Arnold asked to review the data request again. Chair Kellogg stated that there are enough questions among the subcommittee members to table the request and ask for more information and re-submission. Mr. Wilson said the company will be invited to attend the October meeting to answer questions. He said he will work with the subcommittee to compile questions.

Chair Kellogg made a motion that the request be tabled in order to request more information about the direct benefits to the state of Arkansas. The motion unanimously carried.

* **MyMedicalShopper**

Mr. Wilson relayed that there was a second inquiry from My Medical Shopper, which wants to update its website. Mr. Kellogg asked how the new federal rule on price transparency and disclosure may impact the request. Mr. Wilson noted that, as he discussed in an op-ed, hospitals are appealing a court ruling upholding the new rule. He said the biggest question for the courts is whether to stay the rule until after the outcome of the appeal process. The rule may have an impact on APCDs and consumer-facing websites, he said.

* **ABI: Center for Birth Defects**

Mr. Wilson said there is a project in the works, and a data request is anticipated.

* **ACRI: BMI and APCD linkage project**

Dr. Thompson stated this is a proposal coming out of the Obesity Research Center at Children’s that looks at potential interaction between obesity in children that also have diabetes and asthma. The linkage is unique in that it’s the Department of Education and the Department of Insurance giving permission to link individual BMI data with APCD data. ACHI would perform that and put a new hash ID on the data base so there’s no possibility of re-identification.

**V. Data Use Update**

 **ACHI AR Healthcare Costs Utilization and Financing Project**

Mr. Mike Motley updated the board on ACHI’s efforts marketing the APCD in rural areas to help hospitals in financial distress. The goal is to help administrators see demand for, and total spending on, medical services in their catchment areas so they can right-size delivery systems. Mr. Doug Weeks asked how it is determined what services could be delivered locally and what expectations are for volume. Dr. Thompson said ACHI is looking at what the residents of a geographic area are consuming and how much of it could be delivered locally, with support or investment, and how much of it should it be moved somewhere else.

**VI. Data Submission Update**

Ms. Kenley Money gave an update on the data users group. Ms. Money said the group had been holding quarterly webinars and said the next meeting is July 22. She said data submissions have topped 6 billion records since the beginning in April 2016. This past quarter, 199 million records were processed. Ms. Money said there are five active data inquiries at the moment, and hopefully by the next meeting they will be requests.

**VII. Environmental Update**

Mr. Wilson informed the board that ACHI has been working with the Department of Health regarding COVID-19 by collecting and analyzing hospital census data from the agency. One goal is to see the seasonality of COVID-19-related hospital occupancy.

Mr. Austin Porter thanked ACHI for the analysis and said it has been a tremendous help in preparing for the patient surge caused by COVID-19.

Dr. Thompson said the Health Department has provided information on individuals who have tested positive, and Ms. Money’s team has applied an individual hash ID to each. ACHI has then looked at the individuals’ past claims information to see which patients are most likely to have bad outcomes from COVID-19 based on past diagnoses. This analysis can inform decisions about which patients should be advised to shelter in place or minimize activities until there is a vaccine or better treatment.

Mr. Motley said ACHI is developing a framework for looking at telemedicine utilization and costs on a statewide basis in the COVID-19 era. Mr. Wilson said Mr. Motley has been doing initial analyses of COVID-19’s impacts, including on telemedicine, for the state Employee Benefits Division.

 **VIII. Public Comment**

 There were no public comments. The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.