

November 13, 2024 | 12pm | Hybrid Meeting

<u>Type of Meeting</u>	Monthly eHealth Commission Meeting
<u>Facilitator</u>	Rachel Dixon, <i>eHealth Commission Vice Chair</i>
<u>Commission Attendees</u>	Michael Archuleta, Mona Baset, Amy Bhikha, Rachel Dixon, Michael Feldmiller, Patrick Gordon, Micah Jones, Krystal Morwood, Kevin Stansbury, Parrish Steinbrecher, Jackie Sievers Absent: Sophia Gin, Kaakpema 'KP' Yelapaala, Toni Baruti Delegated: Jen Blatnik for Misgana Tesfaye (absent)

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Rachel Dixon

- Quorum Met: Yes
- Voting of Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the September meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Michael Archuleta, seconded by Commissioner Kevin Stansbury
- Corrections for October 2024 eHealth Commission meeting minutes: None

Announcements

Stephanie Pugliese, Director, Office of eHealth Innovation

- Gabby Burke, former CoSHIE project lead, has left OeHI. Melissa Gillespie is the interim project lead, and Matt Arment remains project manager.
- Kim Taylor recently joined OeHI and will focus on the CoSHIE project.
- Stephanie Pugliese (OeHI) stated that the announcements regarding the RFA Award for SHIE are delayed due to technical issues but are expected before the end of 2024.
- Stephanie Pugliese (OeHI) stated that the draft of the 2025 Health IT Roadmap would be sent to the Commission for review and input.

New Business

- Presentation Slides: [The Coalition for Health AI \(CHAI\): Building Trust and Transparency in AI for Healthcare](#)

Detailed Summary: Lucy Orr-Ewing presented on CHAI's mission to advance responsible AI in healthcare. She highlighted the risks of bias in AI and the need for safeguards to ensure equitable access. CHAI is developing resources and tools, including:

- **Risk classification system:** To categorize AI solutions based on risk.
- **Blueprint for responsible AI:** A framework for ethical AI development.
- **Assurance standards:** Guides to help evaluate AI solutions.
- **Technical frameworks:** Detailed guidance for specific AI use cases.
- **Assurance labs:** Independent labs to test AI models for quality and fairness.
- **Model cards:** Standardized information sheets, similar to nutrition labels, to promote transparency about AI models.

Lucy emphasized the importance of evaluating AI throughout its lifecycle, from development to post-deployment monitoring, and stressed the need for collaboration among stakeholders to ensure responsible AI adoption.

Discussion:

Parrish Steinbrecher: "Can you clarify what you mean by 'setting the standard' for data diversity?"

Lucy Orr-Ewing: "For example, with a diagnostic algorithm for polyps, we might require that a model's



performance on different demographic groups must be better than the US average. Developers would then need to train their algorithms on datasets that meet this standard to pass the assurance lab's diversity test. Our current focus is on setting the standards for assurance labs, so developers know what they need to achieve."

Parrish Steinbrecher: "Okay, thank you."

Karen Haneke: "These technical standards you're preparing, are they available to anyone?"

Lucy Orr-Ewing: "The assurance guide and checklist are on our website. The technical frameworks for sepsis and note summarization, version 1, were released recently. We are currently iterating on them based on feedback, but version 1 is available if you'd like to see it. It will be open source, available on GitHub for developers and online for implementers. There may be a small fee for commercial use by non-members, but CHAI is a non-profit, so we're not primarily focused on making money."

Michael Feldmiller: "Seeing how you prepare your technical standards could be helpful for us, both for understanding how they align with other industries and for our own external-facing data governance workgroup. We are wondering if we could learn from your experience."

Lucy Orr-Ewing: "I'm happy to share the standards, even the chapter headings and structure, to give you a sense of how they are organized. Regarding governance, some of our members, like United Health Group, have had machine learning review boards for years, while others are just starting to think about governance. We are trying to facilitate sharing of best practices among our members on this topic, as there's a lot of variation in approaches."

Michael Feldmiller: "That's great. We'd be interested in joining that workgroup."

Lucy Orr-Ewing: "Definitely! We have a team at UPenn and Emory leading that effort. They've conducted surveys and written reports on AI governance in healthcare. It would be great to have you join."

[General Discussion about AI paralysis and the need for guidance]

Lucy Orr-Ewing: "We visited healthcare organizations across Ohio, and a common question was, 'We know AI is important, but we don't know what to do about it.' This paralysis is happening because, in the absence of best practices or clear guidance, no one is really saying, 'Here's how to do it.' We're trying to provide that concrete guidance."

Attendee: "Many of the AI use cases we encounter involve prescribing technology, care plans, or care summaries. Do you support narrative-type AI, like for generating clinical notes?"

Lucy Orr-Ewing: "Yes, that was the generative AI use case we focused on. Note summarization is a mature use case and something many CHAI members are working on. It's probably the most widely used generative AI application in healthcare systems. While it's still nascent, it has the potential to save clinicians significant time, and that's why we chose to focus on it."

Amy Bhikha: "I have a question about the certification process. Does an AI model become certified by going through an assurance lab?"

Lucy Orr-Ewing: "Yes, the assurance labs themselves would be CHAI-certified, similar to how clinical trials need to meet certain standards. We are setting the bar for what it means to be a CHAI-certified assurance lab. For instance, Dandelion is an assurance lab that is live right now, and they are working towards CHAI certification. In the future, we may also certify developers, but right now, the focus is on the assurance labs."

Amy Bhikha: "Do you have any competitors in this space?"

Lucy Orr-Ewing: "There are organizations doing parts of what CHAI does, like the Health AI Partnership at Duke and the Digital Medicine Society. We collaborate with them to avoid overlap and ensure we are complementing each other's efforts. CHAI's strength lies in its comprehensive approach and broad membership, including



patient groups, health systems, payers, and federal agencies. We have significant momentum and support, which we are trying to leverage to drive responsible AI adoption."

Amy Bhikha: "Are you looking at state legislation when developing your certification standards, considering that states may have different stances on AI governance?"

Lucy Orr-Ewing: "That's a great question, and I'm eager to learn more about what we can do in that space. Ideally, CHAI could serve as a common thread, promoting consistency in AI legislation across states. We don't intend to write laws, but we could help define terms like 'transparency' and 'responsible AI' to create some uniformity. We are in discussions with policymakers in several states, but it's early in the process. I need to familiarize myself with Colorado's AI Act in detail, but from my understanding, it doesn't preclude CHAI's work. We are aligned in our values of transparency and responsible AI."

Jeffrey Nathanson: "Can you speak more about your role in upskilling staff members?"

Lucy Orr-Ewing: "We are exploring partnerships to develop educational modules on responsible AI use. We envision creating a maturity model for healthcare systems, to understand where organizations stand in terms of their AI readiness. This will help us tailor our guidance and support to meet the needs of different organizations, including those with limited resources. We are still working out the details, but we recognize the importance of upskilling and providing appropriate support."

[Discussion about OCHIN, an FQHC network, and their potential to host an assurance lab]

Lucy Orr-Ewing: "I'd love to hear from you all. What resonated with you from a Colorado perspective, in terms of assurance labs or data representation? Are these things you're working on with the CoSHIE network?"

Amy Bhikha: "I just came from a hearing where I testified before the AI Task Force. One challenge we face is the potential for a patchwork of AI legislation across states. If Colorado takes a more protective stance on consumer protections, will that discourage companies from operating here? It would be beneficial to have nationwide legislation, but that seems unlikely in the current political climate."

Lucy Orr-Ewing: "It's interesting to hear about the task force. It would be great if CHAI could contribute to a national conversation about responsible AI. We are planning a Congressional Hill Day to present our perspective to members of Congress and their staff."

Mona Baset: "At Intermountain Health, we operate in seven states, so we are taking a 'highest bar' approach to AI guidelines and legislation. We are trying to stay ahead of the curve and ensure our programs comply with the most stringent requirements. Partnerships with organizations like CHAI are helping us achieve this."

Lucy Orr-Ewing: "That's fantastic. It's crucial to have organizations like Intermountain Health involved in shaping best practices. We are trying to leverage our network to be a valuable resource during this time of evolving legislation."

[Discussion about the need for best practices in AI governance]

Rachel Dixon: "I've been working on consumer perspectives on digital health, and there's a lot of anxiety about the use of AI in healthcare, particularly by insurance companies. What is CHAI's perspective on consumer rights in this context?"

Lucy Orr-Ewing: "We have a direct-to-consumer workgroup led by patient advocacy groups that is developing guidance specifically for patients on making informed decisions about AI in healthcare. We are working on consumer education and transparency, similar to how nutrition labels empower consumers to make informed food choices. We want to create a model registry that is easily understandable for anyone, including patients. Our first focus is on chatbots, as they are widely used and there's a lack of understanding about their development and limitations."



[Discussion about CHAI workgroups and how commissioners can participate]

Rachel Dixon: "Thank you for the informative presentation. It's exciting to see this coalition building in the AI space."

Key Points:

- The need for responsible AI in healthcare is to avoid exacerbating existing disparities.
- CHAI's role is an independent, third-party organization fostering trust and transparency in health AI.
- The importance of Assurance Labs in evaluating AI models for quality, safety, and fairness.
- Standardized Model Cards to provide clear information about AI models.
- Collaboration with stakeholders across the healthcare ecosystem, including patients, providers, payers, and technology developers.

Public Comment Period

- A public comment submitted prior to the meeting inquired about the inclusion of nursing facilities, CMAs, and options counseling agencies in the regional CoSHIE hub. Stephanie Pugliese (OeHI) responded that these entities would be included in the CoSHIE hub application process and the Colorado CoSHIE roadmap, though the specific timeline and method would depend on the region.

Closing Remarks

- Vice Chair Dixon thanked Lucy Orr-Ewing for her informative presentation and emphasized the importance of CHAI's work in building trust and transparency in the AI space.

Open Discussion:

- Stephanie Pugliese provided an update on the CoSHIE RFA process, noting that the announcement of awardees is expected in the coming weeks.
- Vice Chair Dixon inquired about the need to review the HIT roadmap in light of potential changes in federal legislation. Stephanie Pugliese responded that the roadmap's recommendations are primarily state-specific and are not expected to be significantly impacted by federal changes. OeHI will be sharing the HIT Roadmap with Commissioners once it is available.
- Commissioners requested Lucy Orr-Ewing's contact information to follow up on CHAI work groups and were presented with the following information: Lucy@CHAI.org

Action Items

- Commissioners interested in joining CHAI work groups should email Lucy Orr-Ewing.
- Stephanie Pugliese will follow up with commissioners regarding CHAI work groups.

Motion to Adjourn

Rachel Dixon

- Motion to adjourn was approved by Commissioner Morwood
- Seconded by Commissioner Steinbrecher