

eHealth Commission January 2023 News Highlights

Health IT-

- **(Issue Brief) Civitas and Maryland Health Care Commission, Advancing Implementation of Health Data Utility Models Issues Brief (12/2022)-** *This issue brief clarifies the role and functions of HDU models, including historical perspective and current context, in effort to standardize approaches to health data and interoperability.* [Retrieved from: https://www.civitasforhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Civitas-MHCC-HDU-Brief_FINAL_2022-15-12.pdf]
- **(National Committee News) U.S. Government Accountability Office press release, GAO Makes Appointments to the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (12/19/22)-** *Seven new members were announced to the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC), a committee charged with improving electronic access, exchange, and use of health information.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.gao.gov/press-release/gao-makes-appointments-health-information-technology-advisory-committee-1>]
 - *In addition, the 2023 schedule of HITAC meetings was published in the Federal Register (12/13/22):* **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Health Information Technology Advisory Committee 2023 Schedule of Meetings AGENCY: Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), HHS. ACTION: Notice of meetings.** [Retrieved from: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-12-13/pdf/2022-27009.pdf>]
- **(National Report) Manatt Health, Closing the Digital Health Disconnect: A Blueprint for Optimizing Digitally Enabled Care (12/14/22)-** *In partnership with the American Medical Association, Manatt Health produced a report exploring disconnects in digital health and related opportunities.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.manatt.com/insights/newsletters/health-highlights/closing-the-digital-health-disconnect-a-blueprint>; Report retrieved from: <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/ama-future-health-report.pdf>]
- **(National Recommendations) Health IT Analytics, Coalition for Health AI Unveils Blueprint for Ethical AI Implementation (12/12/22)-** *This article, highlighted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)-Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), discusses the Coalition for Health Artificial Intelligence's (CHAI) publication outlining recommendations for ethical health artificial intelligence.* [Retrieved from: <https://healthitanalytics.com/news/coalition-for-health-ai-unveils-blueprint-for-ethical-ai-implementation>; CHAI Blueprint retrieved from: <https://www.coalitionforhealthai.org/papers/Blueprint%20for%20Trustworthy%20AI.pdf>]
- **(Federal News) Fed Scoop, HHS, health information networks expect rollout of trusted data exchange next year: Micky Tripathi (12/22/22)-** *This article, also highlighted by ONC, provides an update about federal initiatives pertaining to health information, namely qualified health information networks (QHINs).* [Retrieved from: <https://www.fedscoop.com/health-information-networks-tefca-success/>]
- **(Policy/Practice Guidance) The Sequoia Project press release, The Sequoia Project's Data Usability Workgroup Publishes Final Implementation Guide (12/14/22)-** *The Sequoia Project's Interoperability Matters Data Useability Workgroup created this guidance "to improve the usability of data received by end users within their workflows to benefit patient care", inclusive of public comment and stakeholder engagement. The guide features six topic categories and identifies priority use cases.* [Retrieved from: <https://sequoiaproject.org/the-sequoia-projects-data-usability-workgroup-publishes-final-implementation-guide/>; Guide retrieved from: <https://sequoiaproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2022-12-14-Sequoia-DUWG-IG-Version-1.pdf>]

Broadband-

- **(Policy/Practice Guidance) National Digital Inclusion Alliance, State Digital Equity Plan Toolkit (2022)-** *The National Digital Inclusion Alliance pulled from its various resources, including subject matter expertise, in the development of this toolkit, which offers best practices, step-by-step processes, templates, and tools in the development of a statewide digital equity plan addressing the digital divide with strategic solutions.* [Retrieved from: https://www.digitalinclusion.org/download/20234/?utm_source=sendgrid&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletters]

- **(National Assessment/Analysis) Information Technology & Innovation Foundation (ITIF), The State of US Broadband in 2022: Reassessing the Whole Picture (12/2022)**- *In this ITIF report, an assessment of U.S. broadband, including its strengths and areas for improvement, is undertaken.* [Retrieved from: <https://www2.itif.org/2022-state-of-us-broadband.pdf>]

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and Health Equity-

- **(Policy/Practice Guidance) Manatt Health, Partnership to Align Social Care, and the Scan Foundation, Working with Community Care Hubs to Address Social Drivers of Health: A Playbook for State Medicaid Agencies (11/2022)**- *This playbook is a resource for state Medicaid agencies seeking partnership with Community Care Hubs (CCHs), including their key functions and practice engagement advice.* [Retrieved from: https://www.manatt.com/Manatt/media/Documents/Articles/Manatt-CCH-Medicaid-Playbook_Final-11-17-22.pdf; Related webinar recording (11/18/22) retrieved from: <https://communications.manatt.com/playbook-form>]
- **(General Analysis) Health Affairs, Economic Well-Being and Health: The Role of Income Support Programs In Promoting Health and Advancing Health Equity (12/2022)**- *This analysis discusses economic support programming's role in positively impacting health.* [Retrieved from: https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.2022.00846?utm_medium=email&utm_source=hat&utm_campaign=HAT+12+12+2022&utm_content=journal&utm_term=december+2022&vgo_ee=87ujquMv8wezP11EM0tpmngmB94D%2BVwJcBJ%2BS%2BvtBwuyH3bTKp4IZ86OoXQR8RzEg]
- **(General Analysis) Tech Target/Patient Engagement HIT, Understanding Education as a Social Determinant of Health (12/27/22)**- *This article highlights how education underpins health and wellbeing.* [Retrieved from: https://patientengagementhit.com/features/understanding-education-as-a-social-determinant-of-health?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter]

Medicaid-

- **(National and State Medicaid Data) Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) news, MACPAC Releases 2022 Edition of MACStats: Medicaid and CHIP Data Book (12/15/22)**- *This press release provides access to the latest annual snapshot or data book of national and state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollment, spending, benefits, and information pertaining beneficiaries' health, service utilization, and care access.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.macpac.gov/news/macpac-releases-2022-edition-of-macstats-medicare-and-chip-data-book/>]
- **(Federal Notice/Policy) HHS-Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) press release, HHS Proposes to Standardize Electronic Health Care Attachments Transactions and Electronic Signature Processes to Improve the Care Experience for Patients and Providers (12/19/22)**- *CMS issued notice concerning a new proposed rule that would adopt standards to significantly ease administrative costs and burdens on providers and health plans. Access to the proposed rule and related materials are provided within the press release.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/hhs-proposes-standardize-electronic-health-care-attachments-transactions-and-electronic-signature>]

Capitol Hill-

- **(New Federal Budget/Law) Congress.gov, H.R. 2617, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023-** *On December 29, 2022, President Biden signed the legislation appropriating the federal budget through the remainder of Federal Fiscal Year 2023 or September 30, 2023. The new law's provisions include impacts to health programming, including Medicaid's public health emergency unwinding, and broadband. In addition to the link provided to the public law, the following overviews may be helpful.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2617>]
 - **U.S. House press release, House Passes 2023 Government Funding Legislation (12/23/22)** [Retrieved from: <https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/house-passes-2023-government-funding-legislation>]
 - **ASTHO, End-of-Year Funding and Policy Package Summary (12/20/22)** [Retrieved from: https://www.astho.org/advocacy/federal-government-affairs/leg-alerts/2022/end-of-year-funding-and-policy-package-summary/?utm_source=informz&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=asthophw&utm_content=LegislativeAlert&utm_term=De cOmniBill]

o Benton Institute, Broadband Provisions in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023
(1/4/23) [Retrieved from: <https://www.benton.org/blog/broadband-provisions-consolidated-appropriations-act-2023>]