

**Michigan Health Information Technology Commission
Approved Meeting Minutes**

Date Tuesday, September 27, 2022, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location Grand Conference Room, 333 S Grand Ave, Lansing, MI 48933

Commissioner Attendance

Name	Representing	Attendance
Norman Beauchamp, M.D.	Schools of Medicine	Present
Nicholas D’Isa	Health Plans or Other Payers	Present
Beth Nagel	Department of Health and Human Services	Present
Jack Harris	Department of Technology, Mgmt., Budget	Present
Allison Brenner, PharmD	Pharmaceutical Industry	Present
Heather M. Wilson. Co-chair	Hospitals	Present
Paul LaCasse, D.O.	Doctors of Osteopathic Med. and Surgery	Not Present
Camille Walker Banks	Purchasers or Employers	Not Present
Marissa Ebersole-Wood	Nonprofit Health Care Corporations	Present
Renée Smiddy, M.S.B.A.	Consumers	Present
Heather Somand, Pharm.D.	Pharmacists	Not Present
Jim VanderMey	Health IT Field	Present
Michael Zaroukian, M.D., Ph.D. Co-chair	Doctors of Medicine	Present

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Staff:
Molly Welch-Marahar, Kenny Wirth, Kate Tosto, Theresa Anderson

Guests:
Allie Herkenroder, MIHI Office

Minutes: The regular Health Information Technology Commission meeting was held in-person on September 27 with ten (10) commissioners in attendance.
Quorum was fulfilled.

1. Commission Business

Presented by Kenny Wirth and Michael Zaroukian

- A. Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01pm
- B. Hybrid meeting conduct & logistics
- C. Introductions of staff and Commissioners
- D. Motion to approve 6/14/22 meeting minutes by Norman Beauchamp, seconded by Jack Harris.

2. Presentation and Q&A

Presented by Allie Herkenroder, Michigan High-Speed Internet Office

- i. Introduction of Michigan High-Speed Internet Office
- ii. Framework – digital equity is the goal, digital divide is the issue, digital inclusion is the work.
- iii. Digital Inclusion – goal of encouraging self-sufficiency, participation, and collaboration
- iv. Three principles – creativity, efficiency, transparency

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- v. Forthcoming programs
 - a. Realizing Opportunity with Broadband Infrastructure Networks (ROBIN)
 - i. Last-mile and middle-mile grant program
 - b. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)
 - i. Largest source of broadband funding
 - ii. Priority given to building networks that connect unserved and underserved locations and community anchor institutions
 - iii. Exact allocation is not yet known but is estimated to be \$1.5B - \$1.7B for Michigan
 - iv. Implemented as a subgrant program to variety of entities include private ISPs, non-profits, communities, co-operatives, and others
 - v. Begins with robust and thorough planning beginning in fall 2022
 - vi. Funds likely to start being distributed in early 2024
 - c. State Digital Equity Planning & Capacity Grant Programs (SDEPG & SDECG)
 - i. Provides states with two opportunities; 1) to create a statewide digital equity plan; and 2) a follow-on program for implementing that plan
- vi. MI Connected Future
 - a. Comprehensive and robust statewide broadband planning effort this fall
 - b. Plan will meet the requirements of both the BEAD and SDEPG programs and provide the state with a plan for achieving universal access and improving digital equity
 - c. MIHI plans to implement multiple communications and feedback streams to ensure we are listening to all of Michigan's diverse voices and identifying solutions that close our gaps
- vii. Next Steps
 - a. Finalize applications and secure initial federal funding
 - b. Onboard additional MIHI Office staff
 - c. Develop detailed engagement strategy and begin creating the MI Connected Future Plan
 - d. Complete the infrastructure asset audit project and begin developing the broadband geospatial data strategy and prepare to challenge new FCC maps
 - e. Develop scoring rubric, application, and other materials for the ROBIN Program
- viii. Question & Answer
 - a. R. Smiddy: What if a community municipality declines broadband funding citing limited personnel and/or skills to support implementation? Will the State be hiring consultants to support these communities with limited personnel to oversee broadband projects?
 - i. A. Herkenroder: Can't think of specific example of a municipality declining broadband funding. Won't be asking a municipality to fund this themselves, will be a competitive subgrant program.

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- ii. R. Smiddy: Several communities have hired own consultants to help with broadband funding. Hesitancy in Upper Peninsula to pursue broadband due to lack of support.
 - iii. A. Herkenroder: BEAD program participants would not need to go out and hire their own consultants. Discusses “broadband fabric” and current availability of broadband, need to determine where barriers are to access and why they exist, e.g., one side of street not having access while the other side does.
- b. R. Smiddy: If communities are currently investing ARPA funds for broadband, should they not be because BEAD funding is going to come, and they can use ARPA funding for other things where BEAD is specifically focused on broadband. As a state are we mismanaging these resources?
 - i. A. Herkenroder: Each community knows what is best for themselves. Would encourage communities to do a lot of research on BEAD.
 - ii. R. Smiddy: Thinks they may not know about BEAD and that they are using ARPA funds for broadband where they could be using it for something else because ARPA is a big umbrella for what they can use that for, BEAD can be used for broadband.
 - iii. A. Herkenroder: Understands the point but doesn’t think it is an appropriate place for MIHI to weigh in on how a community should be using ARPA funds.
 - iv. R. Smiddy: More about education, perhaps they don’t know that the BEAD funding is potentially coming for broadband.
- c. N. Beauchamp: Understands what is being said about an asset-based approach, each county knows what they need best. But if they know what is coming over the hill is a huge amount of funding to provide addiction services to the community, they may shift their resources to mental health.
 - i. Speaks to efficiency of partnership. Recently MSU and the Merit Network received \$10.5 million for Federal broadband infrastructure program grant, project MOON-light, to upgrade the fiber optic middle mile network which will improve the quality and availability of high speed. Map of eleven Michigan counties to map broadband access – more accurate maps being developed to understand broadband connectivity and broadband assets. Additionally, thinking about digital literacy and current work at MSU. Thinks there is a huge opportunity to connect with efficiency and would like to see where that fits in the plan.
 - ii. A. Herkenroder: Working closely with Merit. Have a good relationship with majority of the ISPs in the state. Using their partnerships to inform each other. Currently working with MDE on digital literacy.
 - iii. N. Beauchamp: Will there be an RFP or some process to draw in these partnerships and avoid redundancy? What are the

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- tactics and initiatives that you'll incorporate to avoid redundancies and a lack of coordination?
- iv. A. Herkenroder: Sounds counterintuitive, but redundancy is celebrated in the broadband world, helps support. If something were to happen, redundancy would allow access to continue. MIHI working really closely with different partners – not necessarily a formal RFP but is happy to talk more about alternative ideas. MIHI closely partnered with the ISPS, an RFP would only be for the project buildouts.
- d. J. VanderMey: Roadmap topic is to address the digital divide. We recommended that we need to advocate for funding to increase broadband access for underserved communities. But it seems that with the implementation of the funding mechanisms described today as well as the MIHI office, I'm wondering if you have suggestions for what form that advocacy might take, if it is even needed at this point.
- i. A. Herkenroder: Experiencing historic infrastructure rollout right now. Another program impacts consumers called the Affordable Connectivity Program. With the digital divide, we have the actual broadband, we have devices, and then we also have the affordability piece. Many Michiganders cannot afford a broadband subscription plan that meets their needs, so the Affordable Connectivity Program helps support low income and lower income families to connect because broadband is not a luxury, it is a utility. Continuing to support programs for affordability would be crucial, as these programs do have a sundown date.
- e. M. Zaroukian: After affordability, patients want programs that support the relative ease with which they can apply and help with the bureaucracy they might have to go through. Any thoughts on this?
- i. A. Herkenroder: Could be integrated with existing online portals, like MIBridges to help connect people to resources. Many smaller community orgs are assisting families with sign up. If Affordable Connectivity Program could be connected with MIBridges, it would be good.
- f. M. Zaroukian: How would a person do this if they wanted to? Issues of trust, confidentiality, privacy are probably a significant part of the education and outreach. Is there a particular aspect of that you'd like to either see emphasized or partnerships you think would resonate?
- i. A. Herkenroder: Trust is paramount in MI-Connected Future Plan. Wants to think on this and circle back after giving this some more thought.
- g. M. Zaroukian: Wants clarity around issue of getting all boats to rise to level of minimum criteria of broadband speed and access and others who may be interested in functional enhancements, getting speed up higher to reduce delay times. Example of "are you connected? Or are you really connected?" Do you have a sense of how either dollars or grantsmanship might go with regard to those who are trying to bring

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- j. M. Zaroukian: Broadband access in private vs. public spaces. Is there an opportunity for an open access network to assist those who may not be able to get access in a household?
 - i. A. Herkenroder: Yes.

3. Updates

Presented by Policy, Planning, and Operational Support Administration

- A. Health IT Roadmap Quarterly Report – presented by T. Anderson
 - i. Updates on Health IT Roadmap work. Slides available on HIT Commission webpage.
 - ii. J. VanderMey: At the unfortunate intersection of IT, Government, and Health Care which leads to lots of acronyms. Creating a glossary of acronyms would be useful addition to increase accessibility.
 - 1. Number of Commissioners with a term expiration date of 8-22. Should this be 8-23? Was on the agenda for discussion at today's meeting, was this missed?
 - 2. M. Welch-Marahar: MDHHS doesn't make appointments. Working with Governor's office to address lapsed terms.
 - 3. K. Wirth: Clarifies that statute allows Commissioners to continue serving in role until reappointed or a new appointment has been made.
 - iii. R. Smiddy: Advanced directive piece – if MI-POST forms could be included in umbrella discussion around advance directives that would be good. Under telemedicine and telehealth strategy, where does the promotion of virtual care align with payment policies? Lots of folks not connected to broadband, but eliminating audio only services potentially. A telehealth/telemedicine update from the Department may be helpful.
 - 1. M. Welch-Marahar: We can bring an update to the next meeting once policies are final.
 - 2. T. Anderson: Commission preference around terminology “virtual care” vs. “telemedicine” – any preference here?
 - iv. M. Zaroukian: Review of MDHHS Public Health Enterprise – agrees that this is a really important piece of work. When will review be available? – this could inform some advice
 - 1. M. Welch-Marahar: Not sure how public that information will be. Can check on this review and bring relevant information back to Commission.
 - v. N. Beauchamp: Appreciates Department response to request for a project tracker.
- B. Community Information Exchange Task Force – M. Welch-Marahar
 - i. M. Welch-Marahar: First meeting on 19th. Presentations by Tommy Salworth, Ninah Sassy, Allie Herkenroder to connect all of the work going on in the State. Discussion has begun regarding governance and mission.
 - ii. M. Ebersole-Wood: Very engaged group, looking forward to continuing conversation around the scope and thinks it will bring valuable and diverse voices to the table.
 - iii. R. Smiddy: Very diverse group, lots of work and lofty goals, so may need to split into subgroups to complete the work by June of 2023.

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- iv. M. Zaroukian: Will task force charter be shared with HIT Commission?
 - 1. M. Welch-Marahar: No reason not to. It will be an iterative document, but will keep updated.
 - v. J. VanderMey: Wondering if there is a roster or list of members?
 - 1. M. Welch-Marahar: Some shifting in membership. There was a press release sent out regarding the members. Once final members are in place, we can share the roster.
 - vi. N. Sasy: Thinks first meeting with CIE Task Force was very informative, many different perspectives, shows the time taken to convene the group. Rubric put together to make sure that social and clinical partners were at the table and a diverse perspective of both rural and urban.
- C. HIMSS Fall Conference 2022 – M. Zaroukian
- i. Overview of HIMSS Conference – focus on Health IT Roadmap, presentations by MDHHS staff and HIT Commissioners on current work, updates on Michigan broadband, etc.
 - ii. Discussion on Connecting the Care Ecosystem
 - iii. Panel moderated by Jim VanderMey on the future of Health IT in Michigan.
 - iv. R. Smiddy: Data exchanges with dental providers generated a bit of interest.
 - v. J. VanderMey: Dr. Zaroukian acknowledged by HIMSS as a lifetime honorary board member for contributions.

4. Discussion

Presented by Kenny Wirth, MDHHS

- A. MiHIN Board of Directors Election
- i. Open board seat needs to be filled by HIT Commission member. Commissioners Beauchamp and D'Isa expressed interest.
 - ii. N. D'Isa supports Dr. Beauchamp's representing HIT
 - iii. A. Brenner makes motion to nominate Dr. Beauchamp for MiHIN Board of Directors, D'Isa seconds. Roll call vote followed:

Brenner - yes
Wilson - yes
Harris - yes
VanderMey - yes
Ebersole-Wood - yes
Zaroukian - yes
Nagel - yes
D'Isa- yes
Smiddy – yes
 - iv. Motion carried. Dr. Norman Beauchamp nominated to MiHIN Board of Directors.

5. Public Comment

- Jane Brownstein-Giardi

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- Helen Hill, Michigan HIMMS
- Lee Marana, HIMMS-Michigan President

6. Adjourn

N. D'Isa makes motion to adjourn, R. Smiddy seconds, motion approved unanimously.

Next meeting scheduled for November 29, 2022