

# Stay HIN the Know

## Substance Use Disorder Data-Sharing Workgroup Recommendations

**Chad MacLeod**

*Manager of Product & Communication*

**Expert Webinar Series**

*January 29, 2020*

# Stay HIN the Know Webinar Series

HealthInfoNet Webinar Events: <https://hinfonet.org/resources/webinar-events/>

Our User Group Series has been designed to share technical know-how, lessons learned, use cases, tips and tricks, and more that can assist our end users' interactions with our data and solutions.

## Clinical Portal System Overview & Demonstration [ARCHIVED]

NOTE: Registration for this webinar is no longer available; see below for related resources and materials. Date/Time: January 8, 2020; 12-1PM ET  
Presenter: Sharon Bearor, RN, BSN, Clinical Educator  
Intended Audience: HIN Data Users  
Description: HealthInfoNet operates Maine's statewide health information exchange (HIE), a secure and standardized electronic system where healthcare providers can share important patient information for care coordination and treatment purposes. This educational...

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## Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Data Sharing Workgroup Recommendations [UPCOMING]

Date/Time: January 29, 2020; 12-1PM ET  
Presenter: Katie Gray, MBA, Director of Client Operations & Programs  
Intended Audience: General Public, HIN Data Users  
Description: HealthInfoNet operates Maine's statewide health information exchange (HIE), a secure and standardized electronic system where healthcare providers can share important patient information for care coordination and treatment purposes. This knowledge-sharing webinar will provide an overview of the...

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## Clinical Portal Notification System Overview [UPCOMING]

Date/Time: February 26, 2020; 12-1PM ET  
Presenter: Sharon Bearor, RN, BSN, Clinical Educator  
Intended Audience: HIN Data Users  
Description: HealthInfoNet operates Maine's statewide health information exchange (HIE), a secure and standardized electronic system where healthcare providers can share important patient information for care coordination and treatment purposes. This educational training will provide an overview of the HealthInfoNet Clinical Portal's real-time alerting of time-sensitive...

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# Webinar Presenters

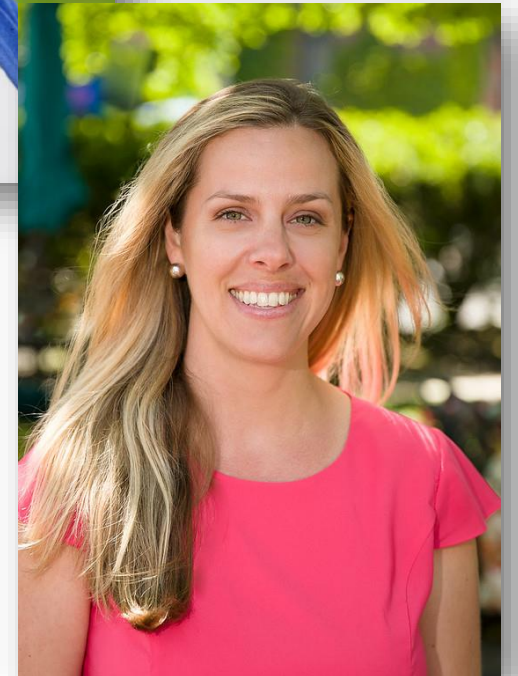
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# Webinar Objectives

- Provide an understanding of Maine's statewide health information exchange (HIE)
- Understand the background and purpose for the creation of a substance-use disorder (SUD) data-sharing workgroup
- Share findings and recommendations resulting from the 12-month convening and engagement process
- Discuss next steps for the implementation of the "SUD Information Exchange Strategic Plan"



# Before We Get Started...

- During the meeting:
  - All attendees are muted to prevent background noise
  - Send all general-interest questions via Zoom's comments panel
  - Be ready! There were will polls launched throughout the session
- After the meeting:
  - Send facility- or user-specific follow-up questions to [general@hinfonet.org](mailto:general@hinfonet.org)
  - Visit our Webinar Events following the event to receive today's materials and to register for upcoming events: <https://hinfonet.org/resources/webinar-events/>



# About HealthInfoNet

Our History, Participants, & Services

**Nicole Yeo-Fisher, MSW, LCSW**  
*Clinical Educator*

**Expert Webinar Series**  
*January 29, 2020*

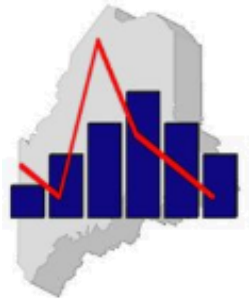


# About HealthInfoNet

- HealthInfoNet operates Maine's statewide HIE
  - HIEs are systems designed to facilitate access to and retrieval of individuals' clinical information to create better, easier, and safer care management and coordination
- HealthInfoNet is an independent nonprofit organization governed by a voluntary, community-based board of directors and advisory committees
  - Our members represent medical providers, public health organizations, patients, government agencies, and businesses throughout the state
- HealthInfoNet provides a number of services to our participating provider organizations, including access to our clinical portal, real-time event notifications, public health reporting, predictive analytics and measures, and more



# HealthInfoNet's History



The **Maine Health Information Network Technology Project** is initiated by the Maine Health Information Center as a feasibility study



HealthInfoNet systems' go live; designated as the State of Maine's **statewide health information exchange (HIE)**



HealthInfoNet builds on its record of innovation by establishing a subsidiary company, **Cureous Innovations**

2004

2006

2009 – 2010

2011 – present

2019



With the study completed, **HealthInfoNet** is established with support from Maine's largest health systems



HealthInfoNet becomes **market-leading HIE**, expanding connections to behavioral health and general medical providers, Veterans Affairs clinicians; developing predictive analytics platform and medical event notifications system; establishing key connections with public health registries; collecting and reporting social determinants of health information; etc.





# HIE Participants

- The HIE is connected to more than 790 provider locations across the state of Maine
- The type of providers connected include acute care hospitals, critical access hospitals, ambulatory facilities, behavioral health facilities, federally qualified health centers, post acute care facilities, VA sites, laboratories, health systems, emergency medical services, pharmacies, payers, and others



# HIE Data Sources

As we connect to sites across the state, our data warehouse is expanding to incorporate new data sources and use cases – from clinical and claims data to social determinants of health and more



Demographics



Encounters



Vital Signs



Laboratory &  
Microbiology Results



Radiology Reports



Adverse Reactions &  
Allergies



Medication History  
(Prescribed & Filled)



Diagnosis, Conditions,  
& Problems



Immunization  
Information



Documents & Social  
Determinants

# Background

## Maine's SUD Data-Sharing History & Related State & Federal Laws

**Nicole Yeo-Fisher, MSW, LCSW**  
*Clinical Educator*

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*January 29, 2020*

# Maine's SUD Data-Sharing History

- The state of Maine is experiencing a similar opioid epidemic as other states, with more than one person each day dying from drug overdose
- A culture of separation has developed in the provider community, preventing patients with SUD from being supported by behavioral health and general medical integrated care services
- Legislative Task Force Report (December 2017) cites the need for “the federal government to amend 42 CFR Part 2 and the related federal statute to allow for greater information sharing”
- Governor Mills’ Executive Order (February 2019) outlines initial actions to be taken by the Administration and its appointed Director of Opioid Response, particularly through the use of technology and data, to prevent overdose deaths, increase treatment and recovery efforts, and bolster prevention strategies



# Maine's Sensitive Data-Sharing Laws (Current)

- Maine law allows HIE participants (treating providers) to send mental health (not SUD) and/or HIV information to the HIE as long as HealthInfoNet:
  - Maintains an opt-in mechanism for patients to choose to share their information with HIE-participating providers
  - Enforces protections on viewing the information by requiring HIE-participating providers to unlock the data in an individual patient's record and log their reason for doing so, including an “emergency” access option
- Maine law requires HealthInfoNet and all HIE-participating providers to follow an opt-out consent policy for all data types:
  - Patients may choose to opt back in to submitting their mental health and/or HIV information to the HIE at any time



# Maine's HIE Consent Process

- HealthInfoNet is responsible for managing HIE consent options, not participating organizations
- The consent relationship is between the individual (i.e., the patient) and HealthInfoNet
- Participating organizations are required to educate their patients about consent options at least once in their interactions (and subsequently should patients wish to change their choices)
- Consent choices are universal – patients cannot make participant-/provider-specific choices



# Federal Sensitive Data-Sharing Laws (Current)

- Per SAMHSA's **Final Rule** (February 2018) to 42 CFR Part 2 (i.e., Part 2) regulations, patients may now consent to disclose their Part 2 data to “intermediary organizations” (e.g., HIEs)
- Patients may now include a general designation (i.e., “to whom”) and a description of the Part 2 data they wish to disclose (i.e., “amount and kind”)
  - “To Whom” – Allows patients to disclose **all** of their Part 2 data to the HIE and all of its treating provider participants or **not** to disclose any of their information
  - “Amount and Kind” – Allows patients to disclose either **all** or a **subset** of their Part 2 data
- HIEs may then disclose consented information to patients’ treating providers
- The consent form must include a “**reasonable timeframe**” for data-sharing consent expiration
- Emergency access/disclosure workflows are required; outside of consent processes





# Methodology & Process

Community Stakeholder Convening & Engagement

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*January 29, 2020*

# Project Methodology & Process

- Funded by the Maine Health Access Foundation and the Betterment Fund
- Identified community stakeholders – healthcare providers, State officials, community peer advocates, and recovery community representatives

Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Maine	HealthInfoNet	Maine Public Safety, EMS
Amistad, Peer Support	Kennebec Behavioral Health	Northern Light Health
Aroostook Mental Health Services	MaineHealth, Maine Behavioral Healthcare	Penobscot Community Health Care
City of Bangor, Public Health	Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention	Portland Recovery Community Center
Community Health and Counseling	Maine Health Access Foundation	Qualidigm, Maine Quality Counts
Greater Portland Health	Maine Governor's Office, Director of Opioid Response	Tri-County Mental Health Services
Groups Recover Together	Maine Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services	Wellspring, Inc. Treatment Services



# Project Methodology & Process (cont.)

- Participated in a 12-month convening and engagement process
  - Led by HealthInfoNet, facilitated by a third-party expert
  - Included regional forums, small-group workshops, one-on-one feedback sessions
- Defined project objectives:
  1. Establish a shared understanding of the crisis and its impact on surrounding communities
  2. Assess the current and future potential for sharing protected clinical data pertaining to substance use disorders
  3. Develop recommendations that could lead the state forward with implementing data-informed integrated care workflows



# Project Methodology & Process (cont.)

- Discussed, deliberated, and shared findings and opinions
- Created workgroups to discuss recommendations
- Organized proposed recommendations into four primary aspects of SUD data sharing:
  1. Legal Framework
  2. Patient Consent Materials
  3. Clinical Treatment Workflow
  4. Technical Operations



# Findings & Recommendations

Supporting Data-Informed Integrated Care  
Workflows for Persons with SUD

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*Director of Client Operations & Projects*

**Expert Webinar Series**  
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# Project Themes & Findings

- Collaboration among participants leads to successful project outcomes
  - If participants are allowed to participate in sessions in ways convenient and enjoyable to them, optimal collaboration is achieved
- Data-sharing practices support and advance treatment and community efforts
  - Successful implementation of the SUD data-sharing practices will require their integration within existing provider workflows to avoid further administrative burden and confusion
- Understanding the importance of meaningfully engaging the peer and recovery community
  - Depending on the role of Peers and Coaches within the treatment community, they may play a pivotal role in the SUD consent education process



# Legal Framework Recommendation

***Legal Framework** – Make key revisions to the language and outline of HealthInfoNet’s sensitive information consent form in consideration of the new SAMHSA Final Rule guidelines, which support provider organizations in changing their data-exchange position with the HIE to allow for the incorporation of SUD treatment information.*

- Incorporate the following legal changes into the HealthInfoNet sensitive information consent form based on SAMSHA’s Final Rule:
  - Patients may choose to disclose **all** of their Part 2 data to the HIE and all of its treating provider participants or **not** to disclose any of their information
  - Patients may choose to disclose either **all** or a **subset** (i.e., all information except for SUD-related documents) of their Part 2 data
  - An expiration timeline of **one (1) year** following the date of a patient’s signature on the consent form will be considered the “reasonable timeframe” for SUD data-sharing consent





# Patient Consent Materials Recommendation

**Patient Consent Materials** – *Revise the current version of HealthInfoNet’s sensitive information consent form, which incorporates the knowledge and expertise in existing SUD treatment informed consent workflows and both State of Maine law and federal Part 2 regulations (per the “Legal Framework” recommendations) to promote and facilitate patients’ consent to share their SUD treatment data for care coordination purposes.*

- Revise the HealthInfoNet sensitive information consent form in the following way:
  - Include mental health, SUD, and HIV consent options in order to maintain a single, comprehensive patient authorization form for all sensitive data-sharing options
  - Include the determined granularity of SUD data-sharing options that comply with the guidance provided in the “Legal Framework” recommendations
  - Define a one-year SUD data-sharing consent expiration timeframe, per the “Legal Framework” recommendations



# Clinical Treatment Workflow Recommendation

**Clinical Treatment Workflow** – Create a robust communications and education toolkit, led by HealthInfoNet, designed to support informed patient consent workflows with the goal of providing low-barrier consent opportunities among patients with SUD in order to advance a data-driven approach in supporting SUD prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts.

- Create a communications and education toolkit, led by HealthInfoNet, that includes:
  - In-depth education and training for SUD treatment staff, in partnership with participant compliance and clinical operations leadership
  - Revised sensitive data consent form, paired with patient consent workflow education, within existing provider workflows (e.g., SUD program intake appointment processes)



# Technical Operations Recommendation

***Technical Operations** – Leverage existing technical infrastructure maintained by the HIE to minimize costs and avoid the implementation of overly complex systems that could cause unnecessary compliance and/or security risk.*

- Leverage existing HIE infrastructure to facilitate SUD data exchange by:
  - Transitioning from a model of sensitive data “blocking” to a model of “flagging”
  - Retrieving all data categories for all patients from each participant’s interface connection
  - Managing data storage and user access based on applied sensitive data flagging supplied by each participant’s interface connection logic AND each patient’s consent choice
  - Managing data access rules based on storage and tracking of patient consent choices
  - Managing access provisioning for “emergency” exceptions required by State of Maine mental-health opt-in law and federal law (i.e., Part 2)



# Conclusions & Next Steps

- Overall, there is broad stakeholder and community support to work toward comprehensive care coordination models and improved quality of care outcomes for people with SUD through the use of technology and data across the physical and mental health services
- Continued existence of bias and discrimination in clinical settings for patients receiving SUD treatment and/or recovery services greatly impacts the ability to advance innovative solutions aimed at engendering data-informed integrated care workflows
- A culture change is required in order to best implement the proposed recommendations
- Our workgroup's report seeks to support what is only the initial phase of SUD data-sharing innovation for the state of Maine, and hopes to become a foundation from which others can evolve and learn as more advanced solutions become available
- HealthInfoNet will work with its participants to further define contract amendments that will allow workflow and technical operations to be scheduled for implementation



# Questions & Answers

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