

Summary: Minnesota e-Health Bridging Information and Care Work Group Meeting

Meeting Date: April 17, 2026

The work group meeting included 28 participants with co-chairs Steve Johnson and Laura Topor.

Meeting objectives

- Learn about and discuss options for information sharing and use/reuse including HIOs, HDUs, and TEFCA/Qualified Health Information Networks (QHINs)
- Review strategies used by other states to address information sharing needs and identify strategies that could be adapted for use in Minnesota
- Begin to develop recommendations for the priority use case groups

Welcome, agenda, status and update from March 19 Advisory Committee meeting

Work group members were welcomed, land acknowledgement read, and meeting logistics reviewed. The co-chairs reviewed the agenda, work group status and provided a March 19 Advisory Committee meeting update. The co-chairs presented the work group's status and progress at the Advisory Committee meeting. They shared the process for prioritizing use cases, and which use cases will be the focus for recommendations. The Advisory Committee endorsed the general direction.

National HIE and HIO landscape

Guest speakers from Civitas Networks for Health were introduced:

- Karen Ostrowski, Director, Health Policy and Regulatory Affairs (Consultant), Civitas Networks for Health
- David Kendrick, MD, MPH, Strategic Advisor, Civitas Networks for Health

Karen and Dr. Kendrick provided a detailed description of the national environment for health information organizations (HIOs/HIEs), and health data utilities (HDUs). They presented data about the capabilities and services offered in addition to the value proposition for HIOs and HDUs. Strategies and "set-ups" in other states were also shared.

HIOs

HIOs provide critical national and state health information infrastructure and are:

- Transitioning funding sources/business models from more grant-funded to self-sustaining
- Enhancing data-driven platforms by monetizing data services
- Leveraging technology like AI, FHIR APIs, and cloud infrastructure
- Participating in national networks (TEFCA is just one example of a national network)

- Serving as trusted data stewards with important local and state relationships and connections while also supporting broader network connections
- Providing an “on-ramp” to national networks for health care organizations, state and local public health agencies, and others

Dr. Kendrick also spoke to the HIO value proposition and the need for better exchange and aggregation of information. He highlighted how many places an individual may have information - from within a smaller and community and potentially across the United States.

HDUs

HDUs build on an HIO’s existing technical, organizational, and trust/consent infrastructure and can operate at both a statewide and regional level. The minimum required use cases/capabilities are: public health reporting, Medicaid data exchange, cross sector data integration and value-based payment and care models).

- Civitas resources: <https://www.civitasforhealth.org/health-data-utilities>
- CSRI resources: <https://thecsri.org/health-data-utility>

TEFCA

- **What it is:** Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) is a federal initiative (21st Century Cures Act of 2016) led by ONC to establish a common set of policies, technical standards, and legal agreements that enable nationwide health information exchange across networks.
- **What it's not:** TEFCA is not a platform, database, or mandate. Participation is governed by one set of policies, connectivity model, and oversight approach to reduce complexity and cost of participating in nationwide data exchange.
- **Core structure:** The Framework describes high-level principles that networks adhere to while the Common Agreement contractually enables network-to-network data sharing.
- **Permitted exchange purposes:** TEFCA currently supports exchange for treatment, payment, healthcare operations, public health, government benefits determination, and individual access services.

2025 National HIO Survey Results

The survey conducted by UCSF with ONC support and in partnership with Civitas. HIOs responded to questions related to participants, services, challenges, financial viability + TEFCA, standards, and information blocking. The entirety of survey results are not available at this time but a high-level summary is available at <https://civitasforhealth.org/health-information-organization-national-survey>

Comments from Minnesota’s HIOs

Minnesota HIO representatives provided perspectives on the Minnesota environment and their capabilities and current services.

Chad Peterson, CEO, Koble-MN

Koble-MN has the capabilities for what an HDU needs but is not using all of them yet. Koble is using eHealth Exchange for more clinical information and is finishing transition to CRISP Shared Services. The primary services provided currently are longitudinal record access, ADT notifications, and public health reporting.

Kari Majors, VP, Executive Director, CyncHealth

As a regional health information exchange, CyncHealth is focused on data standards as a growing and maturing HDU. CyncHealth is looking to support meaningful delivery and impact by via a vast number of use cases including case reporting and case management for payers.

Use case recommendation framework

The co-chairs presented the use case recommendation framework and broad categories to consider. The Bridging Information and Care Work Group is gathering recommendations to help support and move forward the following priority use case groups.

Group 1: Expanded/enhanced bi-directional exchange

- Long-term and post-acute care and hospitals for transitions
- Useable format for transitions
- Exchange regardless of EHR

Group 2: Public health reporting to Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

- Traumatic brain injury/spinal cord injury (TBI/SCI) data to MDH using an HIO
- Newborn Screening - test orders and results to MDH Public Health Lab using an HIO
- Infectious Disease - test orders and results to MDH Public Health Lab using an HIO

Input requested

Input on potentials recommendations in the following broad categories is requested:

- Policy and guidance
- Legislative
- Administrative & funding
- Awareness, education & training
- Other (whatever doesn't fit in the categories above)

Recommendations to move the two use case groups forward will be collected via a survey tool at <https://forms.office.com/g/aQvRNbF5GL>. Input will be collected until May 5, 2026.

Looking ahead and next steps

The co-chairs shared a preview of the next meeting which will be on May 15, 2026.

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