Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Program

Annual Report to the Governor and General Assembly
Under Act 76 of 2016
July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

Letter from the Secretary

To: Governor Tom Wolf
        Interim President Pro Tempore, Kim Ward
        Speaker of the House of Representatives, Brian Cutler

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) is pleased to present the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Program (PA eHealth) Annual Report, which covers state fiscal year 2021-2022 from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.

PA eHealth is responsible for the infrastructure that enables health information exchange within the state. Since 2012, PA eHealth has led stakeholders from the public and private sectors in designing, implementing, and improving Pennsylvania's secure health information exchange, known as the PA Patient & Provider Network, or P3N. The P3N serves as the singular hub to inter-connect P3N Certified Health Information Organizations (HIOs) and their participating healthcare provider and payer entities to each other, and to select state agencies and public health registries.

Initial work was focused on establishing the P3N, certifying and onboarding the five Pennsylvania HIOs, incentivizing health care providers to transition from paper medical "charts" to electronic health records (EHR), and incentivizing medical facilities and Medicaid (MA) managed care organizations (MCOs) to participate with HIOs. Now, PA eHealth's efforts are focused on modernizing and expanding the capabilities of the P3N, increasing participation in health information exchange (HIE) and leveraging P3N data to monitor public health (including pandemics) -- all toward the primary goal of enabling better informed, more coordinated health care for all Pennsylvanians.

PA eHealth is instrumental in helping DHS achieve its goals of delivering integrated whole-person care and controlling health care costs. We are proud of the progress we've made this year, and the groundwork we have laid for implementing new technology and innovation through the Cognosante P3N/Public Health Gateway (PHG) and a statewide closed-loop referral system to address unmet social determinants of health (SDOH) need. We are working to leverage this progress to improve our work and deliver services across the health care system and throughout our communities. The P3N's new platform gives us the opportunity to continue strengthening connections and information across health care providers with the goal of improving the patient experience whenever possible and helping Pennsylvanians to live healthy, fulfilling lives. We are continuing to do our part to make HIE a key element in improving the health care and well-being of all Pennsylvanians.

This report provides a summary of PA eHealth's activities and accomplishments, a summary of receipts and expenditures, a list of contracts entered, and a summary of reportable breaches.

Sincerely,

Meg Snead
Acting Secretary
Department of Human Services

Act 76 of 2016 and the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Program

The Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Program, created under Act 76 of 2016, is required to "submit an annual report to the Governor, the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for distribution to appropriate legislative committees on the activities of the program for the year, including a summary of the receipts and expenditures, a list of contracts and a summary of any reportable security breaches that occurred and corrective actions that were taken."

Transition from Authority to Department of Human Services

The Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Authority (Authority), PA eHealth predecessor entity, was created by Act 121 of 2012. The authorizing legislation included a 2017 expiration and prescribed that, one year prior to that expiration, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) "shall evaluate the management, viability and performance of the health information exchange and shall provide a report to the Communications and Technology Committee of the Senate and the Health Committee of the House of Representatives and the Human Services Committee of the House of Representatives. The report shall include recommendations as to reauthorization of the Authority, dissolution of the Authority or assumption of the Authority's responsibilities and assets by another entity."

The LBFC evaluation and subsequent report occurred concurrently with the introduction and subsequent passage of legislation moving the Authority into the DHS. The **full report**, and **report highlights**, are available on the LBFC website, and provide extensive background and history of the Authority and its work toward developing the state's health information exchange.

In 2016, Act 76 created PA eHealth within DHS. Concurrent with the passage of Act 76, Act 121 of 2012 was repealed, and the Authority and its governing board were disbanded. All the programmatic responsibilities of the Authority transitioned to PA eHealth in the Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP).

The P3N Health Information Exchange Trust Community Committee (HIETCC), comprised of leaders within the five P3N Certified HIOs, has met monthly since November 2013. During state fiscal year 2021-2022, the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Advisory Board held four quarterly meetings via video conference, due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

This 2021-2022 Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Program Annual Report covers accomplishments and activities of PA eHealth during state fiscal year 2021-2022 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022).

Summary of Activities and Accomplishments

During the report year, state fiscal year 2021-2022, PA eHealth executed against the seven strategic goals of the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Program Strategic Plan, July 1, 2021-June 30, 2024. PA eHealth's summary accomplishments during Fiscal Year 2021-2022 directly aligned with the goals/objectives of PA eHealth Strategic Plan.

1. **Enabling Ubiquitous Robust Health Information Exchange**
   - Certified the Lehigh Valley Health Network as a new P3N HIO in February 2022.
   - Began interstate data sharing by onboarding the Delaware Health Information Network to the P3N ADT Service in January 2022.
   - Expanded P3N access to support disability determinations and to improve operations in the Office of Developmental Programs.
   - Completed 121 P3N HIO onboardings with FFY2021 HITECH Grants.
   - Completed four Payer integrations with FFY2021 HITECH Grants.
   - Issued RFA 06-12 to onboard additional Home Health Agencies (HHAs) to P3N HIOs.
   - Prepared RFA 12-12 to offer Electronic Health Record (EHR) incentives to HHAs.
   - Assisted the Bureau of Data and Claims Management (BDCM) in closing out the MA Promoting Interoperability Program.
   - Provided outreach and education through at least 15 meetings with stakeholders, state program areas, and potential participants.
   - Regained Allegheny Health Network and WellSpan Health participation with P3N certified HIOs.
   - Aligned P3N health information exchange capabilities with the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) through Cognosante P3N/PHG procurement.

2. **Increase timely access, accuracy, and availability of clinical information to support diagnosis and treatment of individuals and to improve population health outcomes**
   - Developed and secured American Rescue Plan Act funding for a new RISE PA resource and referral tool (RRT) Procurement that will integrate closed-loop referrals for unmet SDOH needs.
   - Working with HealthShare Exchange (HSX) and PA Statewide Immunization Information System to onboard additional providers through the PHG.
   - Worked with HSX to onboard a new provider to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) through the PHG.
   - Assisted the Department of Health in developing the Electronic Case Reporting system.
   - Included integration of the PHG in the new P3N procurement.
   - Transitioned the PHG Coordinator from the Department of Health to PA eHealth.

3. **Improve upon our existing P3N services by leveraging state services and resources**
   - Secured a $20 million five-year contract with Cognosante to replace the legacy P3N and enhance the P3N by integrating the PHG into the P3N, creating a Care Plan Registry, and providing for patient access to their own health information on the P3N.
   - Co-located with the staff responsible for the MA Management Information System, BDCM.
   - Provided P3N access to staff in the DHS Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) and the Bureau of Disability Determination in Labor and Industry.

- Prepared Pennsylvania's final five-year State MA Health IT Plan (SMHP), which CMS approved.

4. **Alert patient care teams to relevant patient health care encounters**
   - Increased the number of facilities reporting real-time admission discharge transfer (ADT) messages to the P3N statewide alerting service from 114 to 133 emergency departments and from 98 to 154 inpatient facilities.
   - Expanded ADT Service participation to the Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN).
   - Directed Cognosante to incorporate the entirety of the ADT messages into the new P3N ADT Service.
   - Developed PA eHealth staff resources capable of using Tableau for enhanced P3N data analytics and visualizations for monitoring and communicating P3N operation data to key stakeholders.

5. **Support care coordination to improve quality and reduce health care costs**
   - Increased P3N, PHG, and ADT Service participation to reduce duplicative or unnecessary services.
   - Commissioned Cognosante to build a care plan registry in the new P3N to support better care coordination between care teams, payers, and patients.
   - Enforced requirement for MA Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMHs) to participate with a P3N Certified HIO.

6. **Improve patient outcomes and satisfaction**
   - The new Cognosante P3N/PHG contract includes building a Care Plan Registry to enable the sharing of care plans and treatment data with a patient's care team.
   - Improving record matching in the new P3N by contracting with Verato to use referential data in the master patient index.
   - Met regularly with HIOs and the PA State Immunization Registry regarding the need and approaches to improve COVID-19 immunization record matching.
   - Coordinated communication with HIOs throughout the PDMP vendor transition.

7. **Optimize health information exchange stakeholders' experience**
   - User Experience (UX) optimization is a key component of the new P3N design process.
   - Offering 24/7 access to on-demand training in the new P3N.
   - Provided additional training for existing P3N users in MA fee-for-service, ODP, and Labor and Industry.
   - Provided funding in RRT Grant program to customize provider EHRs for deep integration with the statewide RRT vendor through their HIOs.

Summary of Receipts and Expenditures

Receipts Detail Report PA eHealth Partnership Program (July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022)		
Business Area 21		
Description	**Transaction Amount**	**Notes**
Budget Amount	$ 11,719,473.00	SFY 21/22 Budget Across all Funds
Deposit - Interagency	$ 630,000.00	SFY 21/22 P3N HIO User Fees
TOTAL	**$ 12,349,473.00**	

Summary of Expenditures PA eHealth Partnership Program (July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022)	
Business Area 21	
Expenditure Type	**Expended Amount**
Personnel	$ 565,460.35
Operational	$ 5,150,441.74
Grants	$ 3,829,927.29
Total	**$ 9,545,829.38**

List of Contracts

List of Contracts Executed by the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Program (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)					
Business Area 21					
Contract Type	Grantee Name	PA Vendor #	Contract #	Contract Amount	Notes
Purchase Order	Cognosante	204107	4400025355	19,995,178.33	New P3N System Five-Year Contract
TOTAL				$19,995,178.33	

Summary of Reportable Security Breaches

The Pennsylvania Patient and Provider Network experienced no reportable security breaches in 2021-2022.