Health Information Technology Advisory Committee
Adopted Standards Task Force 2022 Virtual Meeting

Meeting Notes | September 6, 2022, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

Executive Summary

The focus of the Adopted Standards Task Force 2022 (AS TF) meeting was to review the draft dispositions document and slides. There were no public comments submitted verbally, but there was a discussion held via the chat feature in Zoom Webinar.

Agenda

10:30 a.m.	Call to Order/Roll Call
10:35 a.m.	ONC Standards Review – Final Dispositions
11:05 a.m.	ONC Standards Review – Draft Slides
11:50 a.m.	Public Comment
11:55 a.m.	Next Steps
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn

Call to Order

Mike Berry, Director, Designated Federal Officer, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC), called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed members and the public to the meeting of the AS TF 2022.

Roll Call

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Steve (Ike) Eichner, Texas Department of State Health Services, Co-Chair
Hans Buitendijk, Oracle Cerner, Co-Chair
Jeff Danford, Altera Digital Health
Rajesh Godavarthi, MCG Health, part of the Hearst Health network
Jim Jirjis, HCA Healthcare
Hung S. Luu, Children's Health
Clem McDonald, National Library of Medicine
Deven McGraw, Invitae
Eliel Oliveira, Dell Medical School, University of Texas at Austin
Vassil Peytchev, Epic
Alexis Snyder, Individual
Fillipe Southerland, Yardi Systems, Inc.
Ram Sriram, National Institute of Standards and Technology
Raymonde Uy, National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)
Debi Willis, PatientLink Enterprises, Inc.

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

John Kilbourne, Department of Veterans Health Affairs (VA)
Samantha Pitts, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

ONC STAFF
Mike Berry, Designated Federal Officer
Wendy Noboa, Subcommittee Lead
Liz Turi, Task Force Co-Lead
Scott Bohon, Task Force Co-Lead

Key Specific Points of Discussion

TOPIC: CALL TO ORDER AND CO-CHAIR REMARKS

Steve Eichner and Hans Buitendijk, AS TF 2022 co-chairs, welcomed everyone. Steve and Hans reviewed the agenda for the meeting and thanked everyone for their contributions and support. On September 14, 2022, the TF will submit a report to the HITAC for its consideration and transmittal to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT.

TOPIC: ONC STANDARDS REVIEW – FINAL DISPOSITIONS

The co-chairs briefly shared the AS TF 2022 charge and related 21st Century Cures Act (the Cures Act) Requirement that the charge fulfills. These included:

- Beginning 5 years after the date of enactment [December 13, 2016] of the 21st Century Cures Act and every 3 years thereafter, the National Coordinator shall convene stakeholders to review the existing set of adopted standards and implementation specifications and make recommendations with respect to whether to-
  - o (A) maintain the use of such standards and implementation specifications; or
  - o (B) phase out such standards and implementation specifications.

Reference: 42 U.S. Code § 300jj–13 - Setting priorities for standards adoption

- Charge: Review the existing set of ONC adopted standards and implementation specifications and make recommendations to maintain or phase out such standards and implementation specifications, as required by 42 U.S. Code § 300jj–13 (Setting Priorities for Standards Adoption). The current set of ONC adopted standards and implementation specifications are maintained on the ONC Standards Hub.
- This charge does not seek recommendations for new standards and implementation specifications for ONC to adopt through rulemaking.

The AS TF 2022 co-chairs reviewed the full working draft of the dispositions document, which included an introduction (approach and summary), recommendations for all the standards the TF reviewed (Data Scope and Vocabulary Standards, General Data Access Standards, Care Coordination Standards, Public Health Exchange Standards, Clinical Quality Measure Reporting Standards, Privacy / Security Standards, Accessibility Standards, and Certification Process Standards), an Alphabetized Standards List, and an Appendices section, including a glossary of acronyms used within the report document. Steve described how they crafted the rationale sections for each of the standards, and Hans highlighted areas in the document that required further wordsmithing, formatting, and other small updates. TF's dispositions document was updated during the discussion. The co-chairs thanked TF members who reviewed the document and added changes and comments and invited them to address their comments verbally. Then, TF members shared feedback on the document, including minimal wordsmithing and more substantive changes.

DISCUSSION:

- Deven discussed several brief comments she made throughout the document, noting that most of them were related to making the sentences in the text shorter and more succinct.

- o She did not recommend substantive changes to the text.
- o She stated that the rationale for the AS TF 2022 Recommendation 35 – HL7 Version 2.5.1 Implementation Guide; Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) to Public Health, Release 1 (US Realm) should be clarified and refined. Hans discussed the references in the ELR standard to Electronic Case Reporting (eCR) and noted that the intent was to balance and align changes in the most current versions of eCR and ELR. Steve added that the language was crafted to support the various viable solutions for this standard and could be adjusted depending on the outcome of upcoming rulemaking. Hans explained that the solution that the TF recommends could change slightly, depending on the contents of the Notice of Public Rulemaking (NPRM) that is currently at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).
- o She observed that, at the beginning of the report, the TF noted that "Phase Out Entirely" is an option for the TF's recommendations. However, the TF has not used this recommendation for any of the standards in the report; rather, the TF has used "Phase Out with Replacement" or "Maintain" as recommendations. Is this something that the TF would typically recommend? Hans responded that this option was defined as it was part of the statutory language, even though it was not chosen as a recommendation.
- Steve made several comments, including:
  - o The formatting for titles be changed to indicate differences in the sections of text better.
  - o The summary tables the TF worked on for their meeting slides should be included as an appendix of the report. A note referencing the tables and the TF's work process should be added to the report.
  - o Include an introductory sentence for each standard and a web link to the ONC document with all of the standards listed (in case any of the URLs change).

TOPIC: ONC STANDARDS REVIEW – DRAFT SLIDES

The co-chairs reviewed the draft slide presentation that the AS TF 2022 will present to the HITAC. It included a summary of the TF's requirement from the 21st Century Cures Act (the Cures Act), charge, membership, work approach, groupings of standards, summary charts, and recommendations. Steve explained that many of the same slides were included in the TF's previous presentation to the HITAC.

Steve noted that the slide presentation also included a section of key takeaways that were not included elsewhere in the TF's recommendation report.

The TF discussed the slides and made small edits to the formatting and content.

DISCUSSION:

- The TF discussed the Key Takeaways section of the slide deck.
  - o Because the Cures Act process requires duplicative work, more than one review of the standards will be necessary. Hans commented that the timing of the reviews is not currently set and suggested merging two bullets to indicate that, additionally, it is inefficient to talk about retiring vs. the ability to recommend a replacement for a standard.
  - o Hans discussed the limits of the review process and asked TF members to consider making recommendations on whether the current process is the most efficient. Steve discussed the usefulness and interoperability challenges that may be inadvertently related to the ONC Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP). Hans commented that assessing the utility of the SVAP is technically out of scope for the TF; however, it is important to understand if the TF's recommendation of a new standard creates backward compatibility issues. Clem suggested adding an overarching rule that states, "New versions of the same standards should be reviewed for new versions every (x amount of time), and new versions should be automatically acceptable." Hans agreed but also discussed the complexities of jumping between versions, noting that availability in SVAP should not be the only indicator

of readiness. Steve agreed but noted that because SVAP is voluntary, not all stakeholders trading data will advance to the same SVAP-included process. Clem noted that adoption is determined by the market, and TF members discussed examples of how updates are connected across public health and the ecosystem.

o   TF members discussed whether the options of "Maintain" or "Phase Out" are appropriate questions. They determined that a more refined approach to the "Phase Out" option was more useful, as a full phase-out for a standard is not likely to be used. They decided that the option should be viewed as a continuum, acknowledging that there is an evolving standards environment beyond what is available in the SVAP.

o   The co-chairs asked TF members if the presentation slides should be included within the body of the report, added as an appendix, or simply just included in the presentation slide deck. Hans suggested adding the key takeaways and the summary statistics as appendices to the report document so that they are included in the transmittal letter. Rajesh voiced his agreement with Hans' suggestions.

Action Items and Next Steps

Homework items included:

- The co-chairs will continue to refine the final draft report and slides to create final copies, which will then be distributed to all TF members.
- TF members may make comments on the documents until they are locked at the end of the day on September 6, 2022.
- If anyone has questions, please reach out to the co-chairs or the ONC program team by email.

Public Comment

Mike Berry opened the meeting for public comments:

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED VERBALLY

There were no public comments received verbally.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA ZOOM WEBINAR CHAT

There were no public comments received via Zoom.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL

There were no public comments received via email.

Resources

AS TF Webpage
AS TF – September 6, 2022 Meeting Webpage
AS TF – September 6, 2022 Meeting Agenda
AS TF – September 6, 2022 Meeting Slides
HITAC Calendar Webpage

Meeting Schedule and Adjournment

Steve and Hans thanked all AS TF members, ONC staff, and contractors for their participation and support. The TF co-chairs will give a final presentation to the HITAC, and a vote on the recommendations will occur at the September 14, 2022, HITAC meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m. E.T.