HIPAA Collaborative of Wisconsin

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A Note From The President

We at HIPAA COW continue to be amazed by and grateful for the work of our health care colleagues. The COVID-19 pandemic brought about fast paced and significant change to our industry and even as the pandemic wanes, the pace of change continues to forge ahead. It is inspiring to see folks in the industry continue to rise up and meet the new challenges of the day. We are also happy to see that HIPAA COW continues to be a gathering point for a diverse group of professionals that come together to share knowledge, experience, and good humor.

The past year at HIPAA COW saw the return of in-person events as well as a reaffirmed commitment to virtual events. We hosted more than 150 people at our Spring Conference in Pewaukee and welcomed over 240 guests at our Fall Virtual Conference this past November. It was wonderful to see so many faces virtually and in-person. We will continue with a rotation between virtual and in-person conferences to meet the needs of our supporters. We are so grateful to you all for attending our events! And we are grateful to our sponsors who stuck with us through the pandemic and continue their commitment to keep our conference fees low!

HIPAA COW continued to hold our long running collaborative networking group calls throughout 2022. The COVID-19 Networking Group has been so strongly attended that we have decided to make it a permanent, although rebranded, networking group. Look for emails to sign up for the Moo and Chew: Operations Networking Group! Bring your issues of the day, your lunch, and collaborate to find answers to the issues that impact operations generally.

And if our conferences and networking groups did not fill your HIPAA tank, we continue to work on our website content to keep it relevant, current, and most of all FREE. I am a regular visitor of www.hipaacow.org while I am at my day job and can personally attest to its value and convenience when tackling HIPAA compliance matters.

This is the end of my first term as President of HIPAA COW. It has been challenging, educational, and fun! The volunteers and the Board of Directors are so enjoyable to work with and really do the heavy lifting. I am grateful to be given a second term for 2023 and look forward to all that we will accomplish together!

I wish you all a healthy and happy 2023!

Jonathan H. Klock, JD
HIPAA COW President

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Our Mission

Assist HIPAA Covered Entities, Business Associates, and other interested parties in implementing HIPAA's Privacy, Security and EDI Standard Transaction provisions, as amended over time.

Foster public education about HIPAA.

Facilitate and streamline HIPAA implementation through identification of best practices.

Reduce duplicate efforts among entities obligated to comply with HIPAA.

Offer opportunities for partnering and collaborating between entities implementing HIPAA.

Identify and evaluate new or difficult HIPAA interpretation issues.

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Networking Group
2022 Achievements

PRIVACY

» Updated and posted the Wisconsin Statute 51.30 deliverable

» Facilitated quarterly Privacy Networking calls as open forum discussions on information blocking to address the 2022 implementation and other privacy topics

» Participated in privacy curriculum for HIPAA COW Spring and Fall conferences

» Information Blocking Workgroup identified five deliverables to review for interoperability and information blocking aspects

RISK MANAGEMENT

» Continued updating of the Risk Management Toolkit with incorporation of the NIST Cybersecurity Framework (NIST CSF)

» Our workgroup members enjoyed sharing and discussing the variety of news stories dealing with information security, threats, vulnerabilities, alerts, critical patches, as well as COVID-19

SECURITY

» Continued to hold meetings during the year

» Continued to review and update policies

» Identified and shared with workgroup updates related to Cybersecurity from regulatory bodies to maintain up to date body of knowledge

HEALTHCARE IT

» Continued to work on process to vet new systems coming into your network

» Discussed implementation of Multi Factor Authentication in work environment

COVID-19

» Continued meeting throughout the year on first Tuesday of every month

» Continued to provide an open forum to participants to discuss the everchanging challenges of COVID-19 at work and in our personal lives

» Began discussing general HIPAA and healthcare topics in addition to COVID-19

» Agreed to transition plans for 2023 including discussing a larger variety of topics. The name of the networking is Moo and Chew: Operations. Update communications were sent which included requesting people to sign up to join the new networking group.

We've Been Busy!!

Networking Group
2023 Goals

PRIVACY

» Review and finalize privacy deliverables identified by Information Blocking Workgroup related to interoperability and information blocking

» Facilitate quarterly Privacy Networking calls as open forum discussions

» Present a webinar on current privacy topic -TBD

» Participate in developing privacy curriculum for HIPAA COW Spring and Fall conferences

RISK MANAGEMENT

» Continue to update, improve, and maintain the Risk Analysis and Risk Management Toolkit:

   » Finish incorporating the NIST Cybersecurity Framework into the Risk Management Toolkit

   » Continue to share current topics and discuss how to manage threats and vulnerabilities

   » Recommend risk topics for sessions at HIPAA COW conferences

   » Recruit IT / security experts to the Risk Management Networking Group

   » Evaluate new features from the OCR and ONC updated Security Risk Assessment Tool for inclusion into the Risk Toolkit

SECURITY

» Create more structure for meetings and greater content value by improved scheduling and organization by the co-chairs

» Organize members by specialty/interest areas to help identify and drive greater breadth of topics for discussion

» Continue to review and revise policies and procedures as part of the ongoing policy updating procedure

» Work with members to identify trends in the HIPAA Security space for further review or more intensive discussions

» Prepare to identify how processes in the Security space may be affected by the HIPAA Final Rule expected to be published in March 2023

» Greater use of tools to better connect the NG membership to include exploring communication sharing between meetings using available tools (shared online folders, chat, email)

HEALTHCARE IT

» Continue member growth and participate

» Share information on healthcare IT issues affecting group members

» Develop additional resources for sharing important information

COVID-19

» Convert to new Moo and Chew Networking Group

» Finish sending updated communications about this new networking group and recruiting people to sign up to the group

» Send emails one week before each call requesting participants to send before, or bring to the calls, topics to discuss

» Freely discuss and share knowledge about a variety of HIPAA, health, and other organization operations-related topics

Looking Ahead

Upcoming Conference Dates

HIPAA COW SPRING VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

April 20-21, 2023

HIPAA COW FALL CONFERENCE

November 3, 2023
Wilderness Hotel and Resort, Wisconsin Dells

Check Us Out
hipaacow.org

Webinars

HIPAA COW offers webinars as a way to present current "hot topics" and to reach out to the those in the outlying areas of the state. Watch for emails and check the website for upcoming webinar dates and topics, as they become available.

Website News

The HIPAA COW website, hipaacow.org continues to be a reliable and frequent resource to thousands of users. In 2022 alone, there have been over 15,000 visitors to the site. Visitors come from every state in the country, as well as internally.

The site provides a wealth of information about HIPAA with free access to HIPAA COW deliverables. Users of the website can find information on HIPAA COW and sponsored events, numerous documents related to Privacy and Security issues, presentations on HIPAA, a job board, links to other related websites, and other useful information.

Interest in HIPAA COW conferences drew many visitors, resulting in over 240 registrations at our virtual conference this year. Conference materials can be found on the website.

Many visitors download documents and other resources that are also avail-able on the website. The "Risk Tool Kit" and "HIPAA 101" were the most accessed documents during the year. HIPAA COW does not charge any fees for using the resources available on the website.

And now there are even more places online to follow us! HIPAA COW is also present on social media, with over 500 connections in LinkedIn and 350+ on Facebook. Join us today if not already following us online.

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Deliverables and Resources

DELIVERABLES

Our Networking Groups have put together an enormous number of deliverables that are available for use free of charge. There are currently over 100 deliverables on the website.

RESOURCES

In addition to all the deliverables, there is a variety of other resources available for you to use including webinar recordings and website links.

Check them all out on our website
Resources Page!

Get Involved!

To join a HIPAA COW Networking Group, please go to the Networking Groups Page on our website and view the *"Why should I join a Networking Group?"* brochure.

Contact a Networking Group co-chair for details.

Contact Us

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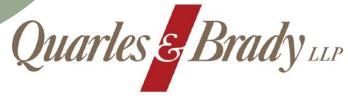Kimberly, WI 54136

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Sponsorship Program

To view the HIPAA COW sponsorship program or to become a 2023 sponsor, please go to our website Sponsorship Page.

Sponsorship is greatly appreciated as it helps to keep our conference available at a lower cost.