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# HIPAA Collaborative of Wisconsin

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2016

## A Note From the President

Greetings and Felicitations, Reader! Attached is HIPAA COW's Annual Report, describing the many accomplishments for 2016 and plans for 2017.

As you may have noticed, the HIPAA COW website was updated this year to make it easier to view and navigate from your mobile devices. These changes also provide easier access to the resource documents, including conference handouts. Additional changes are in development for 2017 to further modernize and improve the appearance of the website from your desktop computer.

Other 2016 highlights include strong attendance at the Spring and Fall Conferences, with over 430 attendees and excellent ratings from the attendees. For the first time, HIPAA COW was sponsored by eleven organizations! This is an increase over previous years. The sponsors allow HIPAA COW to offer full-day conferences with breakfast, lunch and a snack at a very reasonable cost. The website continues to attract nearly 10,000 visitors each quarter, including many with IP addresses located outside of Wisconsin and even outside of the United States. The Networking Groups have continued to develop and update high-quality resource materials and educational programs to improve HIPAA compliance, including a Social Media Webinar in June. HIPAA COW is always looking for volunteers to assist with its many projects, large and small. Please consider becoming involved to share your perspective, to learn from other Group members, and to obtain insight into how other organizations are handling similar challenges. You are welcome to participate at a level comfortable for your position, skills and experience.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the hundreds of volunteers who continue to make HIPAA COW the excellent organization that it is. These volunteers, including the HIPAACOW Board, Executive Committee, Networking Co-Chairs, Networking Groups and Conference Planning Committee, have all contributed their generous gifts of time and expertise. I would like to particularly recognize and thank the employers of each of the volunteers who allow their employees to take time to make such important contributions. I would also like to recognize Wendy Ellwein, whose administrative and event planning talent has been utterly indispensable to this organization for the last ten years!

*Marilyn Windschiegel*  
HIPAA COW President

## The Mission of HIPAA COW is to:

- 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.



In memory of Lee Kadel, HIPAA COW Board of Directors from January 2012 to June 2016, representing Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare. Lee was one of the founders of the Risk Management Networking Groups and was also a member of the Security Networking Group. He will be missed within the HIPAA COW community as well as by his family, friends, and colleagues.

# 2016 ACHIEVEMENTS

## Privacy Networking Group

- Updated second tier deliverables for HIPAA Omnibus Rule.
- Identified and delivered privacy topic for HIPAA COW Webinar.
- Continued quarterly Privacy Networking Group calls.
- Provided topic support for HIPAA COW Spring and Fall Conferences.
- As requested, continued participation by external health information exchanges and health information projects.
- Continued to respond to privacy inquiries made to HIPAA COW.

## Security Networking Group

- With the OCR moving toward a permanent audit program, to reportedly begin in January 2016, the Security Networking Group focused its attention on this guidance for HIPAA COW members.
- Increased the number of active participants.
- Developed a Survey Monkey related to participation, reviewed results, and identified opportunities to increase participation.
- Continued to respond to Security related industry inquiries, news updates, technology updates, etc. as they are submitted to the Security Networking Group.

## Risk Management Networking Group

- Continued to maintain, update, and improve the Risk Analysis & Risk Management Toolkit:
  - ⇒ Incorporated Final Omnibus Rule changes (added mid-year).
  - ⇒ Incorporated the OCR Phase II Audit Protocol into the Risk Assessment Toolkit (added mid-year). In progress.

## EDI Networking Group

- Provided education sessions at spring conferences.
- Quarterly EDI networking phone calls held as a forum for ongoing discussion and education.
- Recruitment of additional workgroup participants.
- Outreach with outside organizations to collaborate on new initiatives to further education efforts relating to HIPAA & EDI.
- Resource for HIPAA Transactions, Code Set and Operating Rule mandates / issues.

## Healthcare IT Networking Group

- Conducted monthly meetings.
- Created an “offline” message board that allows participants to continue conversations outside of scheduled calls.
- Created a Healthcare IT track at conference.
- Solicited participants for the Healthcare IT Networking Group.

# 2017 GOALS

## Privacy Networking Group

- Update second tier deliverables for HIPAA Omnibus Rule Deliverables to be Determined (minimum of 4).
- Investigating the use of law students to assist with preemption grids.
- Update Employee Health White Paper – Seek Volunteers (3rd Year).
- Identify and deliver privacy topic for HIPAA COW Webinar – Topic to be Determined (Minors, Law Enforcement?).
- Continue quarterly Privacy Networking Group calls.
- Provide topic support for HIPAA COW Spring and Fall Conferences.
- As requested, continue participation by external health information exchanges and health information projects.
- Continue to respond to privacy inquiries made to HIPAA COW.

## Security Networking Group

- Evaluate the need for and update HIPAA COW Security documents already posted.
- Complete Removable Media Policy.
- Develop a Cloud-Based Services Policy.
- Develop a Social Media Policy.
- Identify Security topics for Spring and Fall conferences.
- Increase the number of active participants.
- Continue to respond to Security related industry inquiries, news updates, technology updates, etc. as they are submitted to the Security Networking Group.

## Risk Management Networking Group

- Continue to maintain, update, and improve the Risk Analysis & Risk Management Toolkit:
  - ⇒ Continue incorporating the OCR Phase II Audit Protocol into the Risk Assessment Toolkit.
  - ⇒ Continue incorporating the NIST HIPAA Security Toolkit questions into the HIPAA COW risk assessment toolkit.

## EDI Networking Group

- Conduct a webinar on a relevant EDI topic.
- Provide education sessions at spring / fall conferences.
- Hold quarterly EDI networking phone calls as a forum for ongoing discussion and education.
- Consider new initiatives and develop tools for use by the HIPAACOW networking group as well as outside organizations
- Recruit additional participants to the workgroup.
- Outreach to outside organizations to collaborate on new initiatives to further education efforts relating to HIPAA & EDI.
- Serve as a resource for issues related to all HIPAA Transactions, Code Set and Operating Rules mandates / issues.
- Participate in forums / discussions regarding industry standards adoption / revisions.
- Review the 7030 X12 transaction code sets and disseminate differences between the 7030 and the current 5010 X12 transactions to the EDI group.

## Healthcare IT Networking Group

- Increase technical participants – Establish more contacts within organizations that have technical staff.
- Increase technical content at conferences.
- Improve team communication – Find ways to continue or create conversations outside of our monthly meetings.



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**Get Involved:**

To join a HIPAA COW Networking Group, please go to the Resources page on our website and view the “Why should I join a Networking Group?” brochure.

Contact a Networking Group co-chair for details.

**Social Media:**

Like Us on Facebook!  
 Follow us on Linked-In!



Go to our website  
 hipaacow.org



and click on the logos at the bottom of the page.

**Website News**

The HIPAA COW website, hipaacow.org, has been a resource to thousands of users. For the 12 months ended September 30, 2016, there were over 23,000 users of the site, making over 36,000 visits. Of those 36,000 visits, 10,000 originated from Wisconsin users, 21,000 from other states, and the rest came from throughout the world. The site provides a wealth of information about HIPAA and 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. Many of these visitors download documents and other resources that are available on the website. HIPAA COW does not charge any fees for using the resources available on the website. The website was also updated to make it more user friendly for mobile device users.

**Check us out at: [hipaacow.org](http://hipaacow.org)**

**Looking Ahead**

- **Upcoming Conference Dates:**  
**April 7, 2017** - Spring Conference: Radisson Paper Valley, Appleton  
**October 20, 2017** - Fall Conference: Wilderness Resort, WI Dells  
**January 15-17, 2018** - Mega Conference, Kalahari Resort, WI Dells
- **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.
- **Sponsorship Program:**  
 To view the HIPAA COW Sponsorship program or to become a 2017 sponsor, please go to our website at [www.hipaacow.org](http://www.hipaacow.org) and click on the sponsorship link. Sponsorship is greatly appreciated as it helps to keep our conferences available at a lower cost.

**Special Thanks to our 2016 Sponsors**

**GOLD:**

THREE PILLARS TECHNOLOGY  
SOLUTIONS THAT WORK

CPAs and Consultants

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**SILVER:**

consulting • technology • innovation

von Briesen & Roper, s.c. | Attorneys at Law

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**BRONZE:**

Your Independent Source  
for EDI Training