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HIPAA Collaborative of Wisconsin

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A Note From the President

Hello Reader, I am pleased to present the HIPAA COW Annual Report, describing our accomplishments for 2017 and plans for 2018.

HIPAA COW has been busy and productive in 2017. In addition to its many other activities, HIPAA COW has responded to community requests for expert speakers, including a presentation by Board Member Nancy Davis on July 20 to the Safety Coordinators of the Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin. HIPAA COW is already planning speakers for two presentations in 2018; the Wisconsin Health Information Association's Release of Information Workshop in March 2018, and the Wisconsin Association of County Corporation Counsels (WACCC) in May 2018.

We are delighted to see strong attendance at the Spring and Fall Conferences, with over 430 total attendees and excellent ratings for the programs. At our Fall Conference, we tried something a little different. Instead of four sessions of 60-75 minutes each, the Conference Planning Committee scheduled five shorter sessions to allow more focused attention on the presented topic. A majority of the conference evaluations approved of the shorter presentations, and so this will be incorporated into the planning process for 2018.

This report details the Networking Groups' continued development of high-quality resource materials and educational programs to improve HIPAA compliance, including a Social Media Webinar in June, and another on Understanding and Implementing New Guidance on Patients' Right of Access in December. The website containing these resource materials attracted over 32,000 visitors in the past year, including almost 20,800 new visitors during the 12 months ending on September 30, 2017. Please note: HIPAA COW is always looking for volunteers to assist with its many projects, large and small. Please join us 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.

The HIPAA COW Board recognized during 2017 that the EDI Networking Group, having no mandated transactions to implement, attracted less interest than in the past; consequently, the EDI Networking Group is on hiatus until the spring of 2018. At that time, the Board will review upcoming topics of interest and determine how to proceed.

HIPAA COW has welcomed several new Board Members in 2017, with the addition of Harold Moore, Director of IT Security at Froedtert Health, Virginia (Ginny) Gerlach, Regional Security Officer at Ascension Information Services, and Carrie Aiken, CHC, Associate Director of Corporate Compliance at Navitus Health Solutions. HIPAA COW's Executive Committee will also be updated to reflect changes effective January 1, 2018. At that time, Holly Schlenvogt (currently Executive Vice President) will assume the role of the President of HIPAA COW, Bethany Seeboth (currently Vice President of Programs) will become the Executive Vice President, and Amy Bradshaw will join the Executive Committee in the role of the Vice President of Programs. As I move into the role of past President in 2018, I am confident that HIPAA COW will positively and effectively continue under their excellent stewardship.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my appreciation to the hundreds of volunteers who continue to make HIPAA COW the excellent organization that it is. These volunteers include the Board, the Executive Committee, the Networking Group Co-Chairs, and all who have participated in the Networking Groups and Conference Planning Committee. We also recognize the many contributions of the annual sponsors and exhibitors at our Conferences. These organizations make it possible for HIPAA COW to offer full-day conferences with breakfast, lunch and a snack at a very reasonable cost. Last, but definitely not least, I commend 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 over ten years!

Best wishes to each of you for a happy, healthy, and fully compliant 2018!

Marilyn Windschiegl
HIPAA COW President

2017 ACHIEVEMENTS

Privacy Networking Group

- Updated and posted seven Privacy deliverables
- Facilitated quarterly Privacy Networking calls as open forum discussions
- Presented webinar on patient-directed access requests
- Participated in developing Privacy curriculum for HIPAA COW Spring and Fall conferences

Security Networking Group

- Evaluated the need for updates to HIPAA COW security documents already posted
- Completed Removable Media Policy
- Completed Portable Handheld Device Policy
- Increased participation on group calls through use of varied call structures
- Began work on Contingency Planning Whitepaper

Risk Management Networking Group

- Continued to update, improve and maintain the Risk Analysis and Risk Management Toolkit:
    - ⇒ Finished incorporating the OCR Phase II Audit Protocol into the toolkit
    - ⇒ Finished incorporating the NIST HIPAA Security Risk Assessment Toolkit into the toolkit
- Began updating the Threat Source List

Healthcare IT Networking Group

- Provided a much needed avenue for IT professionals to collaborate with others in similar fields to brainstorm and discuss common IT issues that arise in the healthcare industry
- Increased membership and participation on monthly calls
- Began increasing the number of technical sessions at our conferences

EDI Networking Group

- It was decided this summer to put the HIPAA COW EDI Networking group on hiatus for a number of reasons. There are no immediate mandates regarding transactions, so interest in the quarterly calls has not been at the same level as seen in the past. The Board of Directors will work with the EDI Networking group chair in the spring to see what topics are of interest in the EDI realm, and will determine at that point how to proceed.

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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!

2018 GOALS

Privacy Networking Group

- Identify and update a minimum of six privacy deliverables
- Facilitate quarterly Privacy Networking calls as open forum discussions
- Present webinar on current privacy topic - TBD
- Participate in developing privacy curriculum for HIPAA COW Spring and Fall conferences

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Security Networking Group

- 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

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Risk Management Networking Group

- Continue to update, improve and maintain the Risk Analysis and Risk Management Toolkit:
  - ⇒ Finish updating the Threat Source list
  - ⇒ Review the NIST Cybersecurity Framework and add pertinent content to the Toolkit
  - ⇒ Develop a tool for mini risk assessments to use for system upgrades

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Healthcare IT Networking Group

- Grow the number of participants with a focus on getting more technical members
- Begin using Adobe Connect
- Continue growth in the technical sessions at the conferences
- Find a way to continue collaboration outside of sessions

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EDI Networking Group

- Assess reactivation of the EDI Networking Group in early 2018

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.

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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 icons 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, 2017, there were over 21,000 users of the site, making over 32,000 visits. Of those 32,000 visits, 9,000 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. 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.

Check us out at: hipaacow.org

Looking Ahead

- **Upcoming Conference Dates:**
  January 15-17, 2018 - Mega Conference, Kalahari Resort, WI Dells
  April 27, 2018 - Spring Conference: Country Springs Hotel, Waukesha
  October 12, 2018 - Fall Conference: Chula Vista 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 2018 sponsor, please go to our website (hipaacow.org) and click "Sponsorship" in the More Information section. Sponsorship is greatly appreciated as it helps to keep our conferences available at a lower cost.

Special Thanks to Our 2017 Sponsors

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