

# HIPAA Collaborative of Wisconsin

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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# A Note From The President

We at HIPAA COW continue to be grateful for the participation and support of everyone who makes HIPAA COW go. We are a community driven organization, and this community consistently shows up with their time, energy, and talents. You all are the reason for our longevity and strength. The health care industry continued it's fast pace of change, which keeps the agenda of discussion topics at our networking groups full and our conference presentation diverse and interesting. If you haven't attended one of our networking group calls, I highly recommend attending. It is inspiring to see folks in our community continue to rise and meet the new challenges; and then turn around and share that wisdom of hard-fought lessons with each other. I am really proud of the forum of shared knowledge, experience, and good humor that HIPAA COW represents.

The past year at HIPAA COW saw increased attendance at both our virtual and in-person conferences. We welcomed more than 250 people at our Spring Virtual Conference and hosted over 165 guests at our Fall Conference in the fabulous Wisconsin Dells. The feedback from both events was overwhelmingly positive and I am so glad the hard work of our conference planning committee resulted in two strong events. The alternating format of in-person and virtual has been well received and we will continue with a rotation between virtual and in-person conferences in 2024. We are so grateful to you all for continuing to vote with your feet and attend our events!

I am a broken record when it comes to recommending people utilize the free content on our website. I have been a regular visitor of HIPAAcow.org for over a decade but I am even more excited about it this year. If you were at the Fall Conference, you know that we spent the majority of 2023 working on the design and construction of the new

HIPAAcow.org and are very excited about its imminent launch. By the time you read this, it will likely be live! The new site design features a significantly improved visual presentation, streamlined functionality, and a brand-new user experience which enables each of you to manage your own experience with HIPAA COW. Users will be able to manage their networking group membership, see a schedule of meetings and events, set their notification preferences, access deliverables, and more. A refreshed website was definitely overdue and we are excited for the improved experience. A big thanks is owed to the team at Badger Bay for the design and build as it presented a number of unexpected hurdles. It would have been significantly more difficult to accomplish without them!

This year was a banner year with the addition of several new sponsors. We welcome them to the fold and extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our sponsors. Their commitment is key to our ability to offer free website content and low-cost conferences.

The end of 2023 brings my second term as President of HIPAA COW to a close. The volunteers and the Board of Directors are so enjoyable to work with and really do the heavy lifting. I am grateful to everyone who has contributed their time, money, and efforts this past year. I look forward to new challenges and success as I embark on my third term in 2024. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together!

I wish the "herd" a healthy and happy holiday season as well as a prosperous 2024!

*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.



# Networking Group 2023 Achievements

## PRIVACY

- Reviewed and updated five deliverables:
  - Patient Right to Access, Inspect and Copy Protected Health Information
  - Disclosing Protected Health Information (PHI) for Treatment Purposes
  - Privacy/Insured Privacy-Related Complaints Policy
  - Minors' Privacy Rights Related to Access, Inspection & Copying of PHI
  - Use and Disclosure of Psychotherapy Notes Policy
- Facilitated three Privacy Networking calls as open forum discussions
- Co-Chairs participated in developing privacy curriculum for HIPAA COW Spring and Fall conferences

## RISK MANAGEMENT

- Posted updated HIPAA COW Risk Analysis & Risk Management Toolkit (Risk Toolkit) documents. Enhancements include:
  - *Guide*. This was updated to reflect current Risk Toolkit documents and how to use them. As a friendly reminder, start here when you utilize the Risk Toolkit. It includes several helpful tips on how to use the entire Risk Toolkit!
  - *HIPAA COW Risk Assessment Template*. Embedded macros were removed. Functionality for populating the Risk Mitigation Implementation Plan was changed. Key information from portions of the NIST Cybersecurity Framework v1.1 (NIST CSF) was incorporated into it.
  - *NIST CSF HIPAA COW Crosswalk*. This new document provides a list of question numbers from the Security Questions worksheet that were updated, based on a portion of the NIST CSF.
- Continuing to work through the remainder of the NIST CSF controls and will post an update when completed. In addition, our workgroup members continued sharing and discussing the variety of news stories dealing with information security, threats, vulnerabilities, alerts, critical patches, etc.

## SECURITY

- Continued to connect and engage in the topics of interests identified by those members who attend the meetings
- Continued to review and update policies
- Moved back to meeting monthly and ended the year with a well-attended session which included guests that expressed an interest in November's topics

## MOO AND CHEW: OPERATIONS

- Continued meeting throughout the year on second Tuesday of every month
- Provided an open forum to participants to discuss the ever-changing challenges of Operations and Networking at work and in our personal lives.
- Completed the transition in 2023 from the COVID-19 NG to the Moo & Chew Operations Networking Group. We now include a larger variety of topics.
- Continued discussing general HIPAA and healthcare topics

We've Been  
Busy!!



# Networking Group 2024 Goals

## PRIVACY

- Investigate possible deliverables for AI, as it relates to privacy
- Update three privacy deliverables
- Participate in developing privacy curriculum for HIPAA COW Spring and Fall conferences
- Facilitate quarterly Privacy Networking calls as open forum discussions

## 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

- Continue to find strategies that drive group engagement
- Co-Chairs will meet prior to the meeting to ensure the agenda is topical and current to what is in the news and related to security
- Plan to send out the agenda to the group one week before the meeting
- Each agenda will include an item to review a policy
- Continue to update policies in a timely manner

## HEALTHCARE IT

- Continue to expand conversations on pertinent technology affecting all manners of organizations
- Work together to develop and define recommendations for an Incident Response plan
- Identify an additional leader for the group

## MOO AND CHEW: OPERATIONS

- Continue to discuss general HIPAA and healthcare topics of interest to the Networking Group members



# Looking Ahead

## Upcoming Conference Dates

### **HIPAA COW SPRING VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

April 11-12, 2024

### **HIPAA COW FALL CONFERENCE**

November 15, 2024  
The Ingleside Hotel, Pewaukee

Check Us Out  
[hipaacow.org](http://hipaacow.org)

## Webinars

HIPAA COW offers webinars 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

**T**he HIPAA COW website underwent a complete re-design in 2023. The new site offers the same great content with increased functionality. Create a free profile at [hipaacow.org](http://hipaacow.org) to stay up to date on everything HIPAA COW has to offer!

The website, [hipaacow.org](http://hipaacow.org) continues to be a reliable and frequent resource to thousands of users. 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 250 registrations at our virtual conference and nearly 270 at our in-person conference this year. Conference materials can be found on the website.

Many visitors download documents and other resources that are also 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.

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 360+ on Facebook. Join us today if you are not already following us online.



# 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!](#)

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## 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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## Visit Our Website

[www.hipaacow.org](http://www.hipaacow.org)

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# Special Thanks To Our 2023 Sponsors



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## Sponsorship Program

To view the HIPAA COW sponsorship program or to become a 2024 sponsor, please go to our website [Sponsorship Page](#).

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

