HIPAA
Collaborative
of Wisconsin

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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A Note From The President

On behalf of HIPAA COW, I would like to offer words of gratitude and encouragement to everyone that works in the health care industry. You are all amazing, strong, and dedicated people. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to bring a lot of change and new challenges. We discussed on the HIPAA COW COVID-19 calls how impactful some of the changes have been and the emotional toll it has taken at times. Even through all of this, we continued to work together and develop new relationships and support systems. We even helped each other build up our HIPAA privacy and security compliance programs.

Conferences continued to be virtual this year. They were well attended: 283 attended the spring and 217 attended the fall 2021 virtual conferences. Many thanks to the speakers for sharing a lot of useful information with attendees. A world of thanks to the 2021 sponsors as well! Yet again, they helped keep our conference fees low.

HIPAA COW continued to hold successful, well-attended, and informative privacy, security, healthcare IT, risk management, and COVID-19 networking group calls. It is remarkable that so many are willing to share their time and expertise with those brave enough to ask questions. The collaboration is truly incredible!

As we rolled into the end of the year, HIPAA COW hired Badger Bay to fill our contracted Administrative Support and Events Planner position. We welcome their team as they are working through the logistics of taking on the multitude of projects this position entails.

Have you had time to check out the helpful resources on the HIPAA COW website? You cannot beat the cost – they are put together by industry experts and are free to use internally in your organizations!

This is my fourth, and final, year as President of HIPAA COW. I am grateful to have served in this position for such a wonderful organization. It is time to turn the reigns over to and I am happy to turn them over to Jonathan Klock, JD, CHPC. He will do a great job!

Rich Donkle, one of the founding members of HIPAA COW who has been our Vice President of Communications since its inception, is stepping down. In addition, Greg Margrett, is stepping down as Vice President of Programs. They are both remaining on the Board of Directors and will support Scott Vaughan and Debra Johnston as they take on these roles. Many thanks to Rich and Greg for all their service and dedication to the COW!

It is without a doubt that the entire HIPAA COW Board of Directors is a group people that I have had the pleasure to serve. Their expertise and dedication to the mission of HIPAA COW is top notch!

I wish you all a healthy and happy 2022!

Holly Schlenvogt, MSH, CPM
President/Owner

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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 2021 Achievements

PRIVACY

» Convened an Information Blocking Workgroup

» Created and posted an information blocking roadmap deliverable

» Updated the HIPAA COW education powerpoint deliverable

» Updated and posted the 51.30 and Payer preemption analysis deliverables

» Facilitated quarterly Privacy Networking calls as open forum discussions

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

SECURITY

» Increase average attendance at monthly meetings by 20%

» Continue to update policies in reverse chronological order with oldest policies getting updated first

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

» Continue to hold meetings as regularly scheduled without any unexpected postponements

RISK MANAGEMENT

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

» Our workgroup members enjoyed the variety of news stories dealing with information security, threats, vulnerabilities, alerts, and critical patches

» The RMNG also hosted lively discussions of how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting risk management in our organizations and industry

HEALTHCARE IT

» Working on our first deliverable on how to vet out new systems coming into your network

» Discussions included:

  » How Cyber Insurance has started driving security needs of the organization

  » Managed Detect and Response systems and Risk Vulnerability assessments

  » Implementation of Multi Factor Authentication

COVID-19

» Successfully transitioned the calls to the first Tuesday of every month

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

» Grew the average number of monthly participants to over 30

We've Been Busy!!

Networking Group 2022 Goals

PRIVACY

» Review and update at least four privacy deliverables related to 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

» Convene the Information Blocking Workgroup to identify and create deliverables related to the implementation of the 2022 regulations

SECURITY

» Gain increased participation amongst members in regular meetings, policy/document review, etc

» Collaborate with strategic partners on sharing trends and issues to our membership

» Identify current trends and issues related to HIPAA Security

» Conducted regularly scheduled meetings throughout the year

» Discuss/shared strategies to mitigate risks related to HIPAA Security

» Provide an open forum for members to share insights, ideas, and comments on hot topics and enforcement activities

» Update policies and documents assigned to the Security Networking Group

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

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

HEALTHCARE IT

» Host webinar on hot topics affecting group members

» Continue member growth and participate

» Develop additional resources for sharing important information (IE: Bulletins, Security Alerts, etc.)

COVID-19

» Continue providing an open forum to participants to discuss the everchanging challenges of COVID-19

» Continue to hold the calls on a monthly basis, unless participants recommend more or less

» Determine if this concept/networking group should remain for as long as COVID is relevant (as previously planned), or if there is a need for a simple, open forum to discuss anything/everything in a larger, more collaborative setting. This will ultimately help us determine the longevity of this group that was previously expected to have a short lifespan.

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Looking Ahead

Upcoming Conference Dates

MEGA CONFERENCE

January 26-28, 2022
Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells

HIPAA COW SPRING CONFERENCE

April 22, 2022
The Ingleside Hotel, Pewaukee
HIPAA COW Fall Conference
Dates TBD

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.

Check Us Out
hipaacow.org

Website News

The HIPAA COW website, hipaacow.org, has been a resource to thousands of users. For the 12 months ended September 30, 2021, there were nearly 15,000 users of the site, making almost 21,000 visits. Of those 21,000 visits, over 7,000 originated from Wisconsin users, over 11,000 from other states, and the rest came from throughout the world. There were users from every state in the United States.

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 500 registrations at our two virtual conferences this past 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.

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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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Sponsorship Program

To view the HIPAA COW sponsorship program or to become a 2022 sponsor, please go to our website Sponsorship Page.

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

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