HIPAA Collaborative of Wisconsin

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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A Note From The President

Over the years I have been grateful to be part of such an amazing organization and growing number of people that participate and contribute to HIPAA COW. This year, with all of its unique challenges, my feelings intensified. We went into 2020 with the idea it would bring us a 20/20 level of clarity. A pandemic and nation-wide shut down was not what anyone had in mind.

Here are a few changes to which HIPAA COW rose to the challenge in 2020:

» Wendy Ellwein, our Administrative Support and Events Planner for almost 14 years retired. We suggested she could not retire, but we knew we could not deny her this rite of passage. We wish Wendy the best adventures in retirement! Her newest replacement, Kelly Murphy, quickly and eagerly learned the position responsibilities and jumped in to lead our first ever live virtual conference in October after only being with us for a month. Welcome Kelly!

» Due to the pandemic, we canceled our Spring 2020 conference and changed our Fall 2020 conference to a live virtual event. A lot of changes took place to make the fall event a success. The speakers graciously shared lots of information with over 270 engaged attendees.

» As our previous web conferencing platform was not meeting our needs, we researched different platforms. We purchased and are now using Zoom.

» A temporary COVID-19 networking group was formed. Attendees shared challenges, resources, helpful tips, and personal stories during calls.

» A cross-functional group formed to draft and post a Telemedicine policy and procedure.

Many quick decisions needed to be made to deal with all of the changes this year. Through all of this, relationships grew stronger and we found new ways to support each other. The Executive Committee and Board of Directors met the challenge. Our sponsors stayed with us and helped us change the sponsorship program for 2020 in the middle of the year. Networking groups shared their experiences and expertise and helped each other through stressful situations. They also continued to write and post a myriad of resources on the website. These continue to be free for anyone to use!

Ultimately, and even though it was not quite what we intended, HIPAA COW found clarity this year. It is the clarity of knowing that we can mold our platform and help each other even through rapidly changing and difficult times. I cannot thank our sponsors, networking group co-chairs and volunteers, and Board of Directors enough for all they did to continue to support our mission this year.

On behalf of the HIPAA COW Board of Directors and with warm and heartfelt gratitude, stay healthy and happy on your journey into 2021 with us.

Holly Schlenvogt
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
2020 Achievements

PRIVACY

- » Updated and posted ten privacy deliverables
- » Facilitated quarterly Privacy Networking calls as open forum discussions
- » Created a COVID-19: Wisconsin Disclosures for TPO and Imminent Threat for Law Enforcement, First Responders
- » Participated in developing privacy curriculum for HIPAA COW Spring and Fall conferences

SECURITY

- » Consistent and productive online meetings throughout the year
- » Monitored HIPAA Security regulations for any changes – None Identified
- » Monitored and discussed Resolution Agreements involving HIPAA Security issued by the Office for Civil Rights
- » Reviewed the OCR audit protocol for changes and discussed key focus areas by OCR – risk analysis
- » List of policies or whitepapers completed

RISK MANAGEMENT

- » The Risk Management Networking Group (RMNG) welcomed a new co-chair, Debby Gallenberg.
- » Finished updating and improving the Threat Source list component of the Risk Analysis and Risk Management Toolkit. An updated version of the HIPAA COW risk assessment spreadsheet was posted to the HIPAA COW website. The RMNG shared a myriad of hot topic news stories and candidly discussed a variety of information security, threats, vulnerabilities. Many discussions focused on unforeseen impacts from and how to effectively manage the numerous changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In July, the RMNG began incorporating the NIST Cybersecurity Framework (NIST CSF) into the Risk Management Toolkit

HEALTHCARE IT

- » Debby Gallenberg joined as Co-Chair of HIT Group
- » Great discussion on HOT topics that are affecting group member (especially because of COVID)
- » Contributed to HIPAA COW Telemedicine policy template
- » Continued to grow participation
- » Chose topics of technical nature pertaining to current need/ trends
- » Share lessons learned in implementations and in the selection of technology
- » Offer open forum discussions on topics

COVID-19 CALLS

- » Brad Candell and Holly Schlenvogt formed and co chaired this new networking group. It was offered to other networking group members and anyone they wanted to invite.
- » Weekly calls started on April 28th. They shifted to every other week calls in June. Calls focused on asking questions and sharing of COVID-19 information, news, updates, helpful tips, as well as impacts, challenges, and solutions for work and at home.
- » Several individuals shared their personal experiences having COVID. Participants also discussed the emotional toll COVID-19 is taking for so many people and for a variety of reasons. It was agreed these calls help those that attend work through some of this.

We've Been Busy!!

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Networking Group 2021 Goals

PRIVACY

- » Identify and update a minimum of six privacy deliverables
- » 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
- » Create an Information Blocking Workgroup to identify and address deliverables

SECURITY

- » We can list the policy currently under review that might be approved at the next meeting
- » HIPAA Security Oversight is scheduled for next year

HEALTHCARE IT

- » Host webinar on HOT topics affecting group members
- » Continue member growth and participation
- » Develop additional resources for sharing important information (IE: Bulletins, Security Alerts, etc.)

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
- » Consider categorizing types of news shared by color coding them in the minutes so they are easy for members to reference (e.g. ransomware, phishing, unauthorized access, etc.)
- » Evaluate new features from the OCR and ONC updated Security Risk Assessment Tool for inclusion into the Risk Toolkit

CONTINUING COVID-19 CALLS

- » Monitor and share timely news and experiences that help members through the ever changing times
- » Determine whether to extend the invitation to the full HIPAA COW contact list
- » Continue to evaluate the frequency and how long to continue holding these calls
- » Determine whether it would be of value to morph the calls at some point to discuss other timely topics

EDI

- » The Board of Directors decided to put the EDI Networking group on hiatus for a number of reasons. There are no immediate mandates regarding transactions, so there has been no need for quarterly calls and there has not been enough content to fill an entire track at our conferences.
- » The Board of Directors will continue to monitor topics of interest in the EDI realm and if new content emerges, they will evaluate how to proceed.

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Looking Ahead

Upcoming Conference Dates

April 22-23, 2021 – Spring Conference
Virtual

Tentative: October 23, 2021 – Fall Conference
The Ingleside Hotel, Pewaukee

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

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Website News

The HIPAA COW website, hipaacow.org, has been a resource to thousands of users. For the 12 months ended September 30, 2020, there were 15,000 users of the site, making almost 22,000 visits. Of those 22,000 visits, over 8,000 originated from Wisconsin users, over 13,000 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. Even though our Spring 2020 conference had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, our Fall 2019 conference had over 200 registrations. 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. This year, documents regarding HIPAA related COVID-19 issues were quickly added and available to download. 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.

Check them all out on our website Resources Page!

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.

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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To view the HIPAA COW sponsorship program or to become a 2021 sponsor, please go to our website Sponsorship Page.

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

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