November 17, 2026

Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Senator Brian Hardin
Chairperson, Health and Human Services Committee
District 48
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. Metzler & Chairperson Hardin,

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 81-6,128 as part of the Population Health Information Act, attached is a report regarding the activities of the Health Information Technology Board for 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact CyncHealth at legal@cynchealth.org.

Background

In 2020, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB 1183, the Population Health Information Act. This act created the Health Information Technology (HIT) Board as a body to advise on criteria surrounding the statewide health information exchange (HIE) and prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP). The HIT Board also acts as the body that evaluates and grants permission for the release of certain data requests if all state and federal regulations are met. The Board is also meant to give the PDMP more flexibility in data collection as technology and terminology changes over time, through allowing changes to be made regarding the type of identifying information collected in the system in lieu of introducing legislation each time a change is needed.

In 2021, the Legislature passed LB 411, a bill which requires participation in the statewide health information exchange by certain health care facilities and health insurance plans. The HIT Board is tasked with establishing criteria surrounding the claims and clinical information collected by the health information exchange, as well as approving or denying any applications for waiver from this required participation due to technological burden.

The HIT Board is composed of seventeen members: fifteen members appointed by the Governor with approval by the Legislature, and two non-voting ex-officio seats filled by the current chairs of the Appropriations and the Health and Humans Services committees. The majority of members on the Board are credentialed health care providers and maintaining their credential in good standing is a requirement of service.

The purpose of the HIT Board is to:

- Establish criteria for data collection and disbursement by the statewide health information exchange and the prescription drug monitoring program to improve the quality of information provided to clinicians,

- Evaluate and ensure that the statewide health information exchange is meeting technological standards for reporting of data for the prescription drug monitoring program, including the data to be collected and reported and the frequency of data collection and disbursement,

- Provide the governance oversight necessary to ensure that any health information in the statewide health information exchange and the prescription drug monitoring program may be accessed, used, or disclosed only in accordance with the privacy and security protections set forth in HIPAA, and

- Provide recommendations to the statewide health information exchange on any other matters referred to the board.

Board Members

In April 2026, a majority of the HIT Board members' terms ended. We are awaiting appointments to the HIT Board to fill the current vacancies.

The 2026 members of the HIT Board are listed below along with their statutory position as referenced in Neb. Rev. Stat. 81-6,127 (2).

Statute Seat	Name	Organization
(a) Individual with experience in operating the PDMP	**Felicia Quintana-Zinn**	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
(b) Physician	**Dr. Stephen Salzbrenner***	UNMC
(b) Physician – *family practice*	**Vacant**	
(c) Pharmacist	**Dr. Phillip Vuchetich***	Arxsine
(d) Alcohol and drug counselor providing services for a state-licensed treatment program	**Dr. Monalisa McGee-Baratta***	Salvation Army
(e) Provider board-certified in pain management	**Dr. Kimberley Haynes-Henson***	UNMC
(f) Hospital administrator	**Manuela Banner**	Memorial Community Hospital and Helath System
(g) Dentist	**Dr. Mark Latta**	Creighton University School of Dentistry
(h) Nurse practitioner authorized to prescribe medication	**Dr. Douglas Haas***	UNMC College of Nursing-Kearney Division
(i) Veterinarian	**Dr. Jessika Benes**	Mid Plains Mobile Vet
(j) Representative of NE DHHS	**Ashley Newmyer**	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
(k) Representative of a delegate (as defined in 71-2454)	**Dr. Aimee Black***	Nebraska Total Care
(l) Health care payor	**Drew Gonshorowski**	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
(m) Credentialed health information management professional	**Vacant**	

(n) Representative of the statewide HIE	**Dr. Larra Petersen-Lukenda**	CyncHealth
(o) Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature *(ex-officio seat)*	**Senator Brian Hardin**	*NE Legislature*
(o) Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature *(ex-officio seat)*	**Senator Robert Clements**	*NE Legislature*

*Term Expired April 1, 2026

At the time of this report, 12 positions remain vacant on the HIT Board:

- Physician (b)
- Physician – *family practice* (b)
- Pharmacist (c)
- Alcohol and drug counselor providing services for a state-licensed treatment program (d)
- Provider board-certified in pain management (e)
- Hospital administrator (f)
- Dentist (g)
- Nurse practitioner authorized to prescribe medication (h)
- Veterinarian (i)
- Representative of a delegate (as defined in 71-2454) (k)
- Health care payor (l)
- Credentialed health information management professional (m)

2026 HIT Board Meetings and Activities

Since the 2025 annual report was submitted, the board has held the following meeting:

- **March 11, 2026** – virtual

Notice was posted on the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar and agendas were posted publicly prior to all meetings, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

CyncHealth, as the statutorily designated administrator of the Health Information Technology Board, maintains copies of all meeting minutes, which are available to the public on the website (https://cynchealth.org/resource-center/nebraska-hit-board/)

All policies that are approved by the HIT Board are also made publicly available on the website (https://cynchealth.org/resource-center/nebraska-hit-board/).

Meeting Content and Activities

In addition to decision-making actions and policy adoption, the HIT Board also received several presentations throughout the year intended to educate them on topics related to data exchange, such as federal regulations, privacy and security, technology developments, and status updates from the designated statewide health information exchange entity (CyncHealth).

No topics were presented for board education and awareness since the submission of the 2025 annual report.

Waivers of Participation

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 1-6,125(e), *"A health care facility may apply to the board for a waiver from the requirement to participate under this subsection due to a technological burden. The board shall review the application and determine whether to waive the requirement. If the board waives the requirement for a health care facility, the board shall review the waiver annually to determine if the health care facility continues to qualify for the waiver."*

No applications for a waiver of participation have been received from any facilities since the submission of the 2025 annual report.

Projects Presented to HIT Board for Approval

Under the Population Health Information Act, the HIT Board is tasked with approving the dispersing of aggregated and de-identified PDMP information for public health or research purposes.

Data requestors are predominantly universities conducting research. Requests move through internal governance processes at CyncHealth and its research division, the Nebraska Healthcare Collaborative. There is a comprehensive set of criteria that requestors must meet, including collaboration with the Internal Research Board (IRB) of the institution where they reside.

The HIT Board approved providing PDMP data for the following projects since the submission of the 2025 annual report:

-Mobile Health for Migrant Health

-Justice Study

-Assessment of GLP-1 Receptor Agonist Safety; using the Nebraska PDMP Database

The HIT Board reviewed providing PDMP data for the following reports since the submission of the 2025 annual report:

-PDMP Report for CHI Health Partners

To get more information on the Nebraska Healthcare Collaborative and view the standards that requests for information must meet, visit:

https://cynchealth.org/about/nebraska-healthcare-collaborative

To view the Nebraska Healthcare Collaborative project submission guidelines, you can view the manual here:

https://cynchealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/NHC-Project-Proposal-Guidelines-Manual.pdf

Policies Approved by the HIT Board

Under the Population Health Information Act, the HIT Board is charged with adopting policies and procedures necessary to carry out its duties.

Proposed policies are presented to the board for review in the pre-meeting materials. During the meetings, policies are presented by their sponsors, followed by questions and discussion from the board. All policies are voted on by a roll call vote, with a simple majority of present active voting members required for approval.

Policies that are brought to the board from the designated statewide HIE and PDMP, CyncHealth, undergo an internal review process prior to being brought to the Board for approval. All CyncHealth policies must go through internal data governance review and approval processes to ensure compliance with all applicable laws, industry standards, and best practices for data-sharing.

No policies and specifications have been adopted by the Board since the submission of the 2025 annual report:

For easy reference and transparency, all adopted policies are available publicly on the HIT Board's website: https://cynchealth.org/resource-center/nebraska-hit-board/.

This report was compiled and submitted by CyncHealth on behalf of and in partnership with the HIT Board members.

CyncHealth contact: legal@cynchealth.org

HIT Board website: https://cynchealth.org/resource-center/nebraska-hit-board/