

Network News

June 2026



Agenda

- **Welcome and Civitas Updates**

- *Jolie Ritzo, CEO, Civitas Networks for Health[®] (Civitas)*
- *Jessica Little, Chief Operating and Programs Officer, Civitas*
- *Lizette Rivera, Director, Member Operations and Programs, Civitas*
- *Madelynn Valu, Program Director, Civitas*

- **DC Fly-In Recap and GRAC Updates**

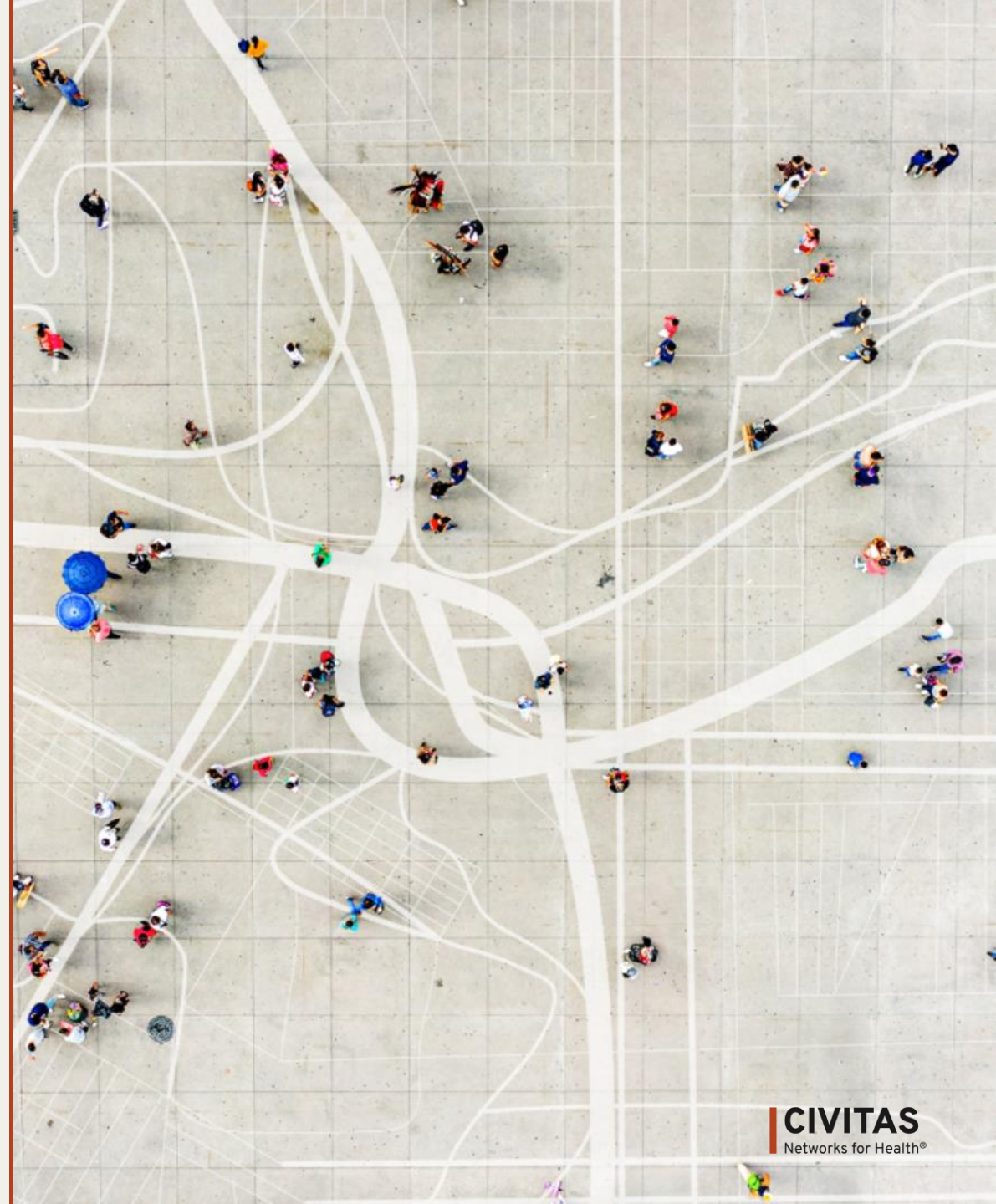
- *Karen Ostrowski, Director, Health Policy and Partnerships, Civitas*

- **Sequoia Project Partner Presentation and Q&A**

- *Didi Davis, VP, Informatics, Conformance & Interoperability, The Sequoia Project[®]*

Housekeeping Reminders

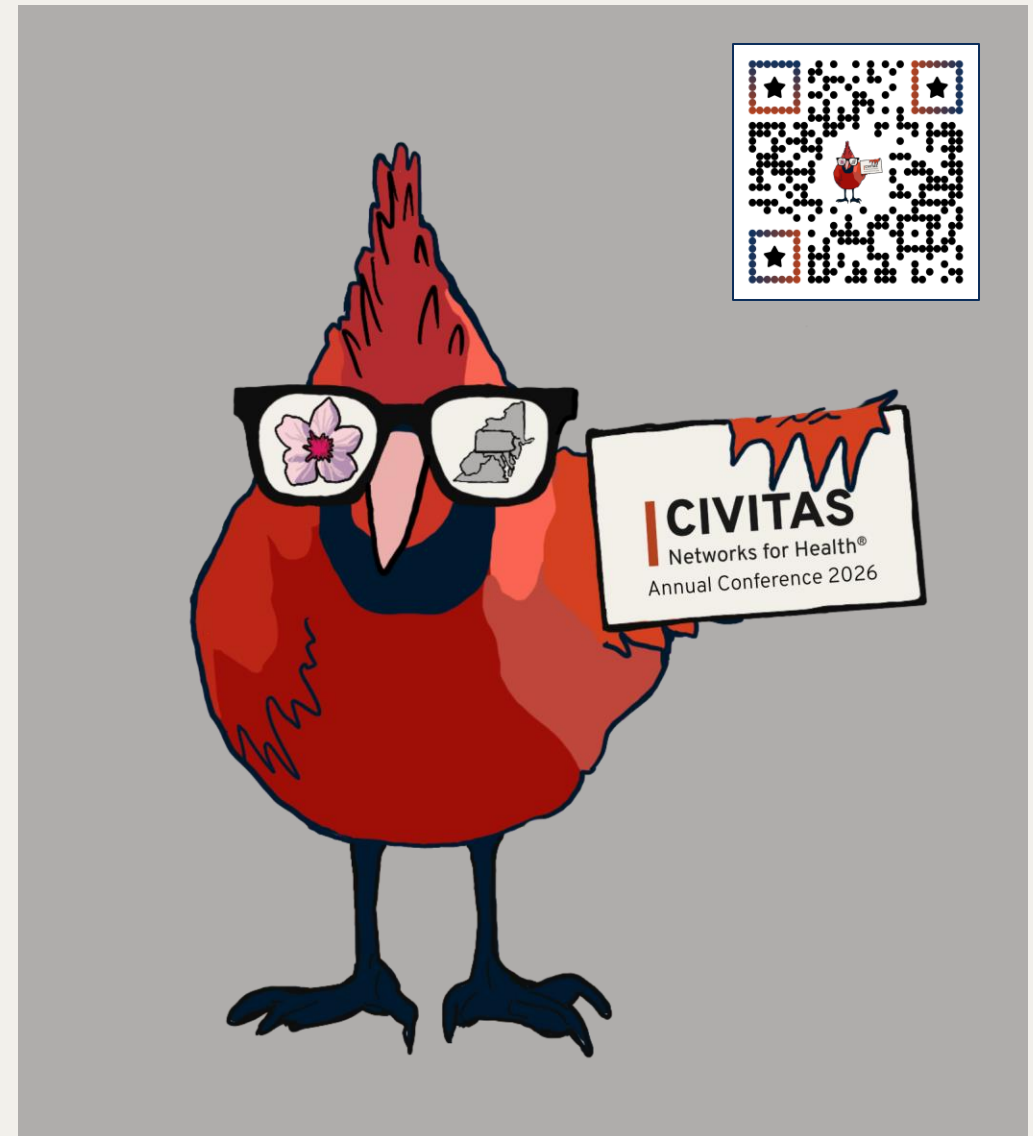
- This is a webinar where all participants are automatically muted and your video is not displayed.
- If you would like to ask a question, please use the Q&A function on the right-side taskbar.
- Please note that AI notetakers are not permitted and will be removed.
- This webinar is being recorded, and the recording will be shared after today's event.
- For questions following the webinar, please reach out to contact@civitasforhealth.org.



Early Bird Registration for the Civitas 2026 Annual Conference is Open!

Hosted in collaboration with our Mid-Atlantic Host Committee, just minutes from Washington, D.C. in Arlington, VA.

- [Registration is open](#) – secure your spot today at a discounted rate! Rates increase by \$100 starting August 8, 2026.
- Plan early and save with [discounted hotel and flight options](#).
- The Speaker Resource Portal is live and was shared with speakers this morning.
- Interested in sponsoring? Review the [Sponsorship Prospectus](#) and email contact@civitasforhealth.org to learn more.
- Registering a group of more than 5 or 10 people? Use GROUP5 or GROUP10 for a discounted rate on top of the early bird pricing.



Register to Attend Virtual Preconference Sessions (Open to the Public!)

Join us for virtual preconference sessions designed to deepen learning and spark meaningful discussion ahead of the Civitas Annual Conference. Register to attend:

- **August 12, 2-3:30 p.m. ET** – [Building Healthier Communities Through Coordinated and Highly Collaborative Statewide Action](#)
- **August 18, 2:30-4 p.m. ET** – [Using Real-Time Data to Drive Proactive Postpartum SUD Care and Strengthen Rural Care Continuity](#)
- **September 10, 3-4:30 p.m. ET** – [From Data to Impact: Using APCD Analytics to Shape Policy and Improve Population Health](#)
- **September 16, 2-3:30 p.m. ET** – [Co-Designing Trusted CIEs: Privacy, Coordination, and Data Systems for Whole Person Health](#)

Thank you to our returning virtual preconference sponsor, J2 Interactive!



Thank You to Our Civitas 2026 Annual Conference Upgrade Sponsors



Better healthcare,
realized.

R H A P S O D Y



Community Excellence Awards Opening Soon

The Civitas 2026 Community Excellence Awards recognize outstanding organizations and individuals advancing community health through innovation, leadership, and partnership. ***We are honored to share that this year we will introduce the Deb Web Award for Excellence in Health IT Leadership and Community Engagement, created in commemoration of Deb Anderson.***

We will be launching nominations for this year's awards in the coming weeks – stay tuned for more information at the end of June.



Upcoming Events

- **June 25, 10-11 a.m. ET** – [Exploring the Future of Population Health Data at National Academies Workshop](#)
- **July 8, 1-2 p.m. ET** – [Q2 Public Policy Briefing](#)
- **July 15, 2-2:45 p.m. ET** – [Civitas 2026 Annual Conference Speaker Information Session](#)
- **August 10-11** – [2026 WEDI Summer Forum](#) – Chicago, IL & Virtual
- **August 19, 1-2 p.m. ET** – [August Network News](#)
- **September 16-17** – [California Quality Collaborative: BHI Health Care Leadership Summit](#)
- **September 21, 12-5:15 p.m. ET** – *HIE Value Series (Invite Only)* - Arlington, VA
- **September 22-24** – [Civitas 2026 Annual Conference](#) – Arlington, VA

Civitas Member News

- [AHA And West Health Launched National Accelerator to Scale Technology-Enabled Patient Care Solutions](#)
- [Arkansas SHARE Work on Data Sharing to Improve Care Highlighted by HHS and ONC](#)
- [Common Ground Health and Rochester RHIO Published Their 2025 Year in Review](#)
- [UHIN Joined a National Pilot to Advance Clearinghouse-to-Clearinghouse Prior Authorization](#)
- [Zus Health Won the 2026 Interoperability & Integration Award from HealthTechNode](#)
- [NCQA and West Health Announced Partnership to Advance Integration of Behavioral Health into Primary Care](#)
- [C3HIE and THSA Joined Forces to Create Texas' Largest Interoperability Network](#)
- [VITL Featured in WIC Landscape Report About Strengthening Information Exchanges Between Providers and WIC](#)
- [CRISP DC Formally Designated a Health Data Utility](#)
- [Healthy Alliance Shared That New York's Social Care Networks Hit One Million](#)
- [InterSystems Published a Case Study About Running a Successful HIE Without Relying on Government Financing Featuring Tennessee Health Information Exchange](#)

Civitas Member News

- [Healthy Alliance CEO Erica Coletti named as One of City & State NY's 2026 Nonprofit Trailblazers](#)
- [Verato Identity Network \(VIN\) Launched at 2026 Reuters Digital Health Summit](#)
- [MN Community Measurement Recognized Individuals and Organizations that Contributed to the Measure-Eligible Patient Identification Pilot](#)
- [Comagine Selected By CMS to Serve as End Stage Renal Disease \(ESRD\) Network Contractor for Network 15](#)
- [Alliant Health Solutions Awarded Multiple CMS ESRD Network Contracts, Expanding Impact Across Eight States](#)
- [Melissa Kotrys CEO of Contexture Featured on HIMSS TV Discussing Data Exchange and Medicaid Eligibility](#)
- [Mountain Pacific Updated Its Name And Online Presence](#)
- [UHIN Published a Blog Noting Participation in the DC Fly-In](#)

Civitas Member News

- [Connxus CEO Eliel Oliveira Named Co-Chair of Federal ONC HITAC](#)
- [DHIN Named to Modern Healthcare's Best Places to Work for 2026](#)
- [Many Civitas Members and Partners Named to Becker's "170 Women in Health IT To Know"](#)
- [HEALTHeLINK Published Its 2025 Impact Report](#)
- [Connecting for Better Health Published a Blog on HR1 Implementation](#)
- [Comagine Published a Blog About Community Organizing and Its Role in Transformation](#)
- [Verato Named 2026 Healthcare & Life Sciences Snowflake Product Partner of the Year](#)
- [Stratis Health Acquired NARHI to Accelerate National Impact](#)
- [Cotiviti Certified All NCQA Digital HEDIS® Measures for Measurement Year 2025](#)
- [MyHealth Access Network Published New Research on HIEs as Novel Sources for Population-Based Post Marketing Surveillance of Medical Products](#)

Events Team Update

To better support Civitas' programming, we've established a dedicated team to lead planning, content, and execution:

- **Demri Henderson** – Project Management
- **Kelsey Matheson-Daly** – Content, Strategy, and Platform Management
- **Lizette Rivera-Arnold** – Platform & Technical Lead

What this means for members:

- Consistent, high-quality event programming
- Stronger alignment with member priorities and topics of interest
- Continued dedicated support for event participation and engagement

Questions or ideas for a virtual event? Email us at virtual_events@civitasforhealth.org

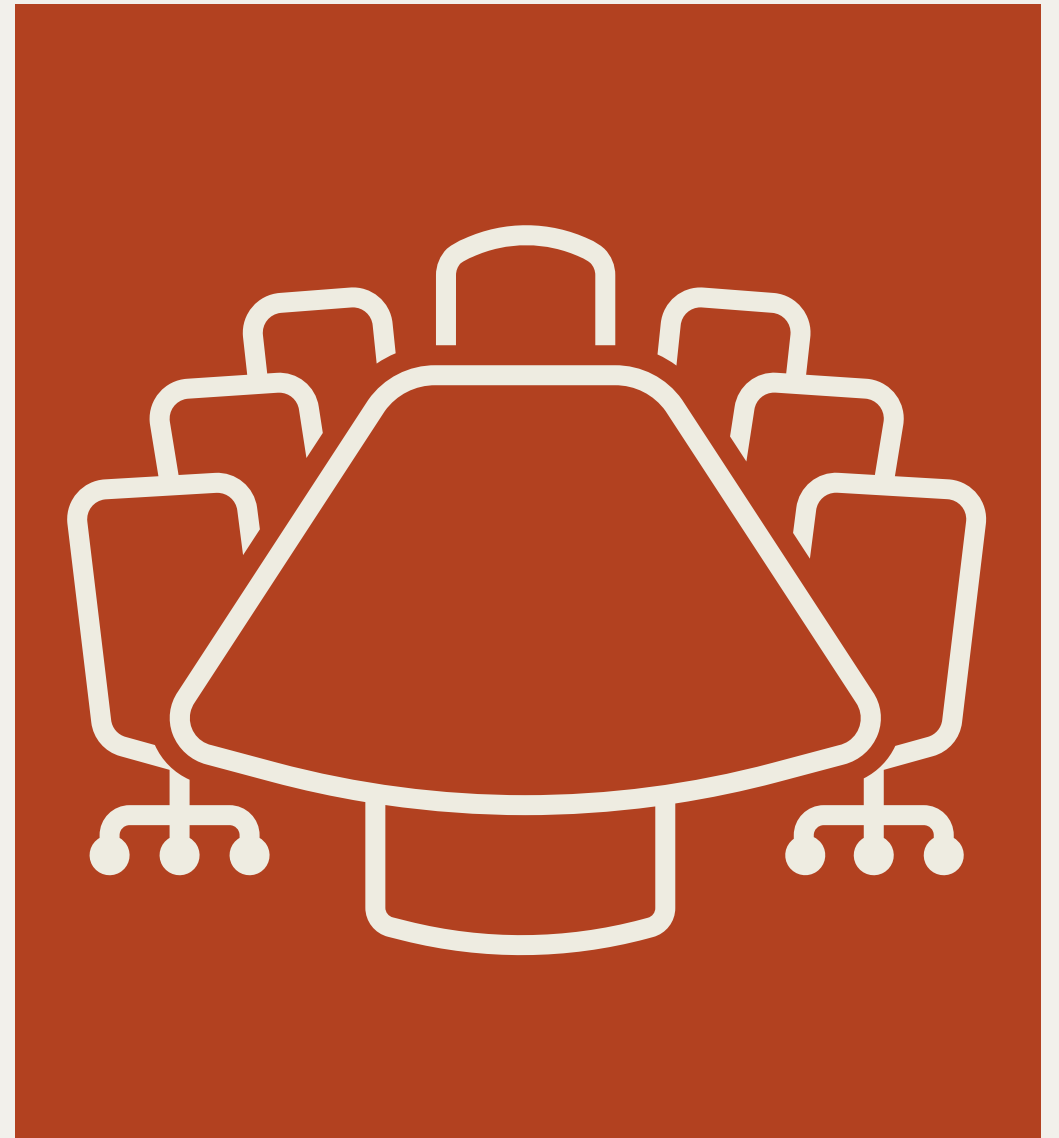


Civitas Board of Directors 2027 Nominations Opening Next Week

Civitas is pleased to share that we'll begin our open call for 2027 Civitas Board of Directors nominations next week!

The 2027 Board will be comprised of strategic, innovative, and pragmatic thinkers leading Civitas full member organizations from across the national network.

We look forward to sharing more details with you very soon!



2026 Member Satisfaction Survey Now Open

We want to hear from you. The [Civitas Member Satisfaction Survey](#) is now open and takes just 5–7 minutes to complete.

Your feedback helps shape member benefits and programming for the year ahead.

- **Open:** June 15 – August 14
- **Goal:** 80 responses | 90% satisfaction
- **Incentive:** Enter to win free registration to the 2027 Annual Conference or one of two \$100 gift cards
- More than one member of your team may respond, recognizing that different team members connect with Civitas in different ways



Part 1 of RHTP Survey Due Soon

Civitas invites members to complete Civitas invites members to complete [part 1 of a two-part survey on engagement in the Rural Health Transformation Program \(RHTP\)](#).

- **Purpose:** Understand member roles, capabilities, and barriers to participation
- **Impact:** Inform RHTP planning and long-term sustainability
- **Request:** One response per organization
- **Deadline:** End of June



Civitas Programs Updates

- **Demographic Data Element Modernization (DEMo) Initiative**
 - The [DEMo Initiative](#) is a multi-phased collaborative effort between Civitas, AHIP, and HL7 to modernize demographic data content and standards. The effort has been sponsored by HL7's Cross Group Projects Workgroup and the final content is being guided through the HL7 standards development process. An updated version of the [Phase 1 Report](#) to include results from cognitive testing will be published in the coming weeks.
- **Patient Centered Data Home (PCDH)**
 - [PCDH](#) recently restructured its Governance Council to welcome 11 new council members. In 2026, the council will be focused on growing the PCDH network and showcasing its impact.
- **HIE Value Series**
 - Several valuable HIE tools have been introduced through this series, including the Health Data Atlas — a national HIE coverage map showing geographic coverage rates. The series has attracted participation from nearly all Civitas member HIEs, and 96% of attendees report it has provided value at every meeting to date.
- **National Health Information Organization (HIO) Survey**
 - Civitas, in partnership with UCSF and ONC, is continuing to support the development and dissemination of the National HIO Survey. Requests to test the survey were recently sent to organizations that have agreed to serve as pilot sites.
- **Supporting Implementation of Gravity Standards Across New York State**
 - Civitas, in partnership with the Gravity Project, is continuing to provide technical assistance in the implementation of Gravity standards to the New York eHealth Collaborative (NYeC) through March 31, 2027.
 - [Jess Little has been selected as a Gravity Project Steering Committee co-chair for 2026-2027!](#)

If you are interested in learning more about Civitas programs or are interested in partnering with Civitas, please reach out to Madelynn Valu at mvalu@civitasforhealth.org

Civitas' Third Annual DC Fly-In Recap

20+ Civitas members from across the country came together in Washington, D.C., for the Civitas Annual Fly-In, an energizing and impactful opportunity to elevate the role of community-driven health data infrastructure in federal policy conversations.

- A recap of the Fly-In is available via [this link](#)
- Details on Civitas' Fly-In policy requests and year-round advocacy efforts can be found on our [Advocacy Page](#)



Recent Advocacy Efforts

Update	Advocacy Agenda Area	Key Alignment Points
Drug Prior Auth Rule & RFI Comment Letter	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing HIE/HDU recognition as authorized payer API intermediaries and critical infrastructure for event notifications and cybersecurity resiliency • Supporting QIO role in FHIR/ePA TA to small and rural providers • APCD interests in payer data access and reporting • RHICs role in reducing prior auth burden in value-based care arrangements
AHIMA Health Data Week Participation	HIEs & HDUs APCDs RHICs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing HIE/HDU positioning on ONC/TEFCA, CMS Health Technology Ecosystem, and data intermediary recognition • APCD work on price transparency as a named CMS policy priority • RHIC stake in incentive alignment and use-case-driven data sharing across payers, providers, and community partners
NASDOH Updates	RHICs QIOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing RHIC priorities around upstream drivers of health and CMS/CMCS engagement; CMMI convening on LEAD and ASPIRE models presents a concrete opportunity for member CBO networks • Connecting to QIO priorities around rural health and CMMI implementation; QIO expertise in TA and rural health transformation relevant to CBO engagement in demonstration models
CDC Engagement Updates	HIEs & HDUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing HIE/HDU priority to engage with CDC on guidance and resources that encourage public health agencies to leverage HDUs for data sharing and public health reporting; • In May, Civitas and CDC met to review key findings from the 2025 National Health Information Organization (HIO) Survey focused on public health connectivity. • In June, Civitas and CDC met to discuss CDC's involvement and presence at an upcoming HIE Value Series virtual meeting and the Civitas 2026 Annual Conference.

Civitas Partner Spotlight

Interoperability Matters and Data Usability Taking Root Community of Practice Overview

June 17, 2026

The Sequoia Project Vision

To make the right health information accessible at the right place and time to improve the health and welfare of all

Connected We Stand

Sequoias are among the oldest, tallest trees on earth. Individually, they cannot reach the great heights of giant sequoias. Together, their complex, interconnected root system helps them withstand nature's forces and flourish.

Only connected can they reach great heights.





Interoperability MATTERS

an initiative of The Sequoia Project



National level
issues



Maximum stakeholder
engagement



Real-world
implementation



Interoperability MATTERS

an initiative of The Sequoia Project

We're providing neutral
space for important work

Thought Leadership

2019	Unlocking compliance with information blocking rules. <i>-Information Sharing Workgroup</i>	30 Healthcare Organizations
2020	Making exchanged clinical data more useful. <i>-Data Usability Workgroup</i>	>400 Healthcare Organizations
2020	Progressing interoperability at state agencies. <i>-Public Health Community of Practice</i>	26 Public Health Agencies & Associations
2024	Protecting patient privacy in health data exchange. <i>-Privacy & Consent Workgroup</i>	37 Healthcare Organizations Privacy Experts
2024	Advancing implementation for new exchange partners. <i>-Payer Workgroup</i>	18 Healthcare Organizations Payers
2024	Solving the last mile problem for patient data access. <i>-Consumer Workgroup</i>	48 Healthcare Organizations Patient Advocates
2025	Evolving the integrated care team. <i>-Pharmacy Workgroup</i>	40 Healthcare Organizations Pharmacies

Data Usability Workgroup

Data Usability Workgroup Leadership



Phil Beckett, CEO, Co-chair
Texas Health Services Authority



Bill Gregg, MD, Co-chair
HCA Healthcare



Didi Davis, VP
The Sequoia Project

Workgroup Members

409 Organizations 587 Participants



Healthcare Providers



Public Health



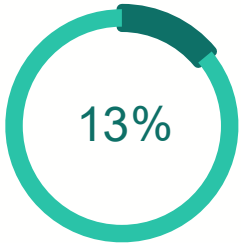
Consumer/Patient



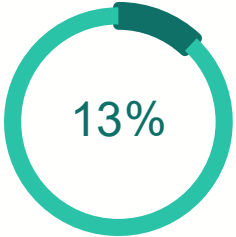
Standards Developer



HIN/HIEs



Federal, State, Local Government



Health Plan/Payer



Health IT Developers



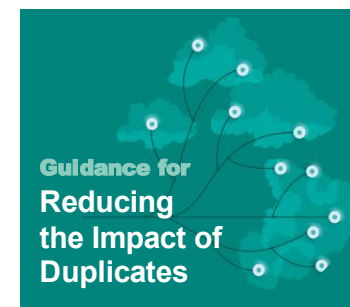
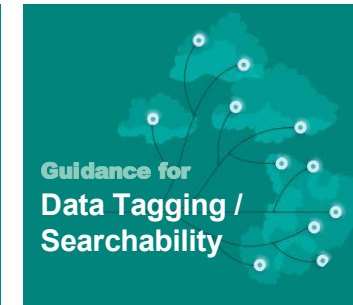
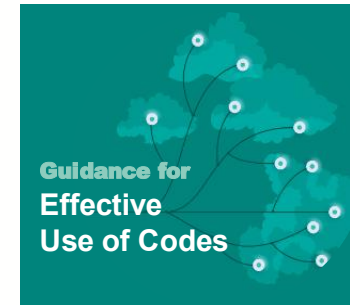
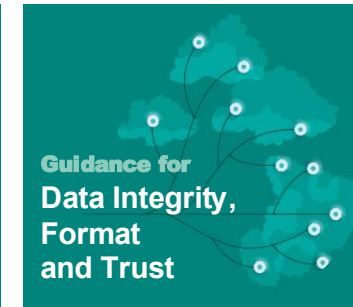
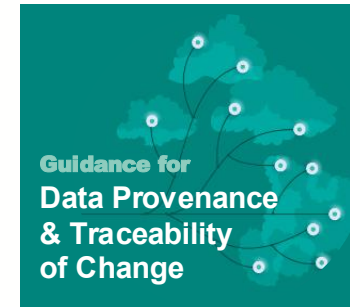
Other



Data Usability Implementation Guide (DUIG) V2.0 Overview

Table of Contents

- Executive Summary & Phases Timeline
 - Phase 1 - Administration & Prioritization
 - Phase 2 - IG Development
 - Phase 3 - IG Public Comment
 - Phase 4 - IG Publication
- Statement of Intent
- Sections/Chapters
 - Seven Topic Categories
 - Guidance with SHALL, SHOULD, MAY
- References
- Appendix A – High Priority Lab Results
- Appendix B – A Priority list of documents for information sharing

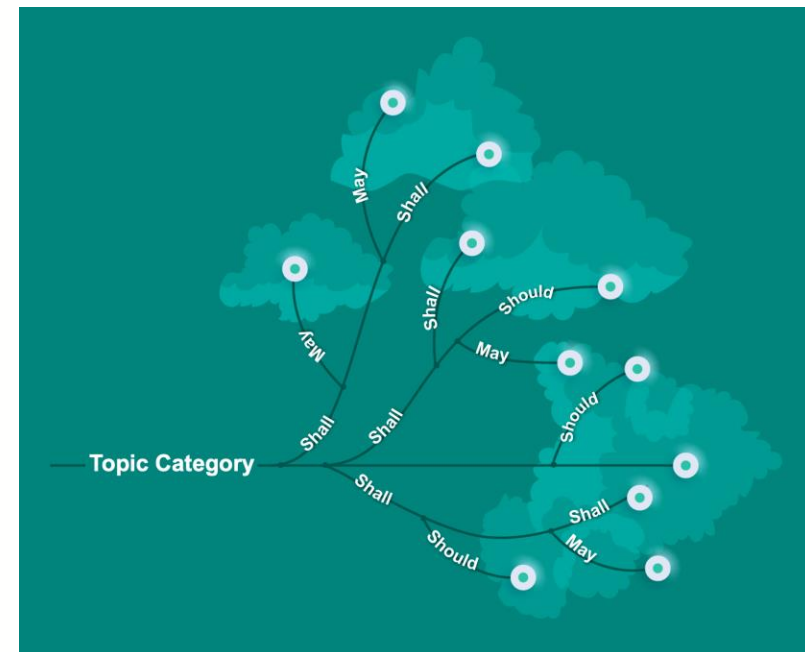


Use Cases

- Provider-to-provider health information exchange
- Provider-to-public health agency information exchange
- Healthcare entity-to-consumer information exchange

Section / Chapter Structure

- Problem statement
- Use Cases
- Existing Published Work
- Guidance
- Future Efforts



Alignment with Government and Industry Standards



Data Usability Matters Because:

The Challenge: It's one thing to get health data to the right place at the right time; it's quite another to make sure that data is complete and useful for clinical, public health, research, and patient-facing use.

The Impact: Data usability is integral to patient safety. When health data is usable, clinicians make safer decisions, AI and clinical decision support tools are more reliable, patients are empowered with accurate information, public health gains real-time visibility, and the healthcare ecosystem reduces costs and improves efficiencies.

The Problem: Digital health data exchange often delivers data that is fragmented; inconsistently formatted or lacking context; and contains duplicate information and limited value for decision making.

Data Usability Implementation Guide V2.0

A consensus driven guide developed by diverse industry stakeholders to provide actionable, real-world specifications for improving the quality and usability of exchanged digital health data across networks, vendors, and care settings.



- Why data usability is essential for trusted interoperability
- Key principles and rules to:
 1. Reduce duplicate data
 2. Ensure data is trusted when exchanged
 3. Effectively use codes to enable semantic interoperability
 4. Improve data tagging to enable searchable data
 5. Improve laboratory data usability



Get Involved

- › Contact interopmatters@sequoiaproject.org to join this workgroup or become a sponsor.



Phil Beckett, PhD
TX Health Services Authority
CO-CHAIR



William Gregg, MD
HCA Healthcare
CO-CHAIR



Coming Soon in 2026:

Gather input from industry for timing of next version of Data Usability Implementation Guide 2.x or 3.0 while promoting adoption of v2.0.

SPONSORSHIP
AVAILABLE!

We convene a national workgroup to develop implementation guides to improve data usability.

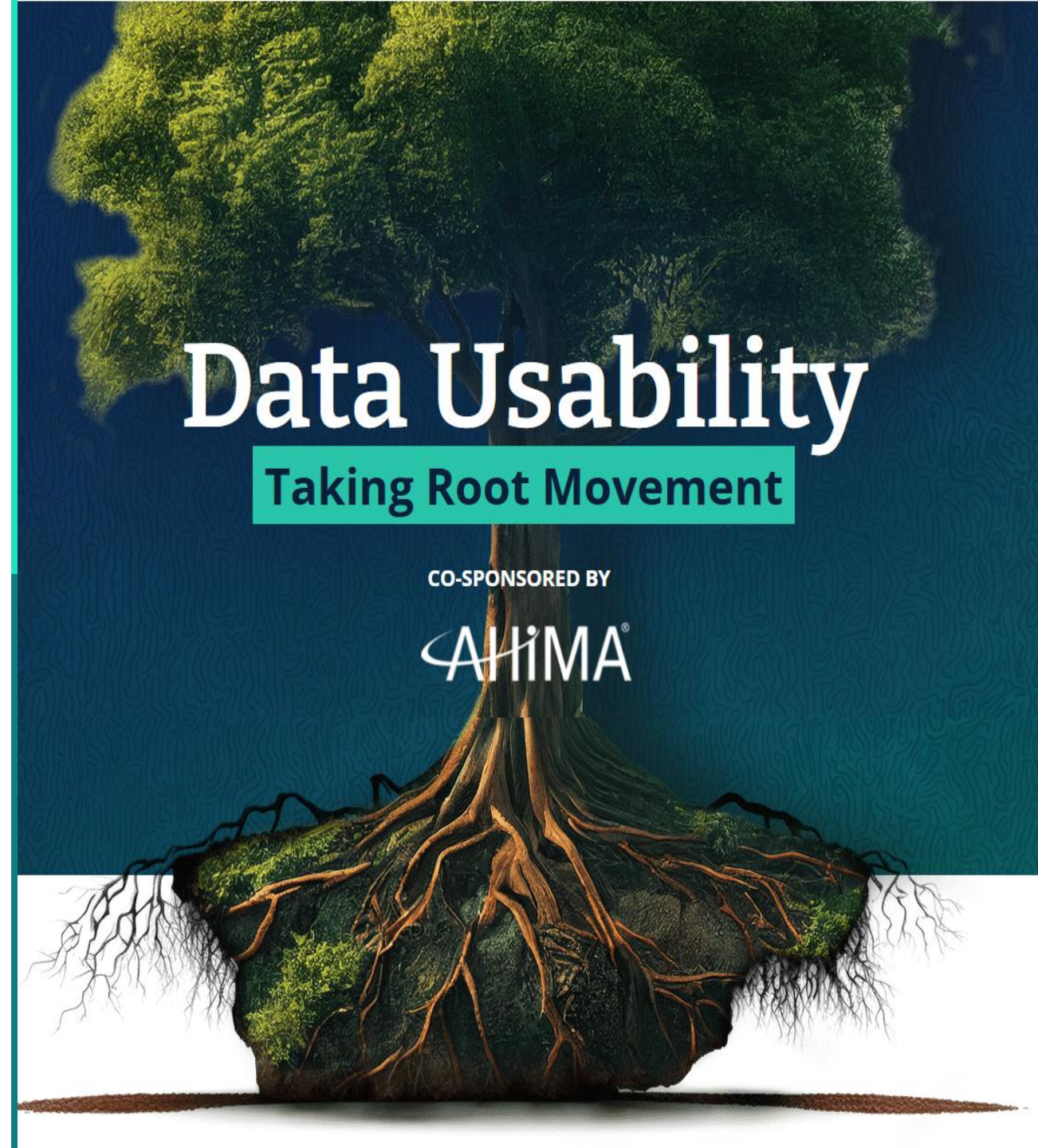
[Access Resources Here](#)

2026 - 2027 Data Usability Workgroup Cycle - Timeline

- Next Phase of Activities - Process & Timeframe
 - Phase 1 - Administration and Prioritization
 - November 2025 – May 2026
 - Phase 2: Developing Initial Draft Guidance
 - June 2026 – October 2026
 - Phase 3: Public Comment Period/Recommended Next Steps
 - November 2026 – January 2027
 - Phase 4: Finalizing Implementation Guide and Call to Action
 - January 2027 – March 2027

It's time for data usability guidance to **take root**.

Community of Practice Roundtable



Data Usability

Taking Root Movement

CO-SPONSORED BY



What is the difference between the **Data Usability Taking Root Movement** and the **Data Usability Workgroup**?



Data Usability **Workgroup**
Develops Guidance



Taking Root **Movement**
Implements Guidance

An initiative co-sponsored by **AHIMA**



Community of Practice



Roundtables



Technical Assistance



Testing Platform



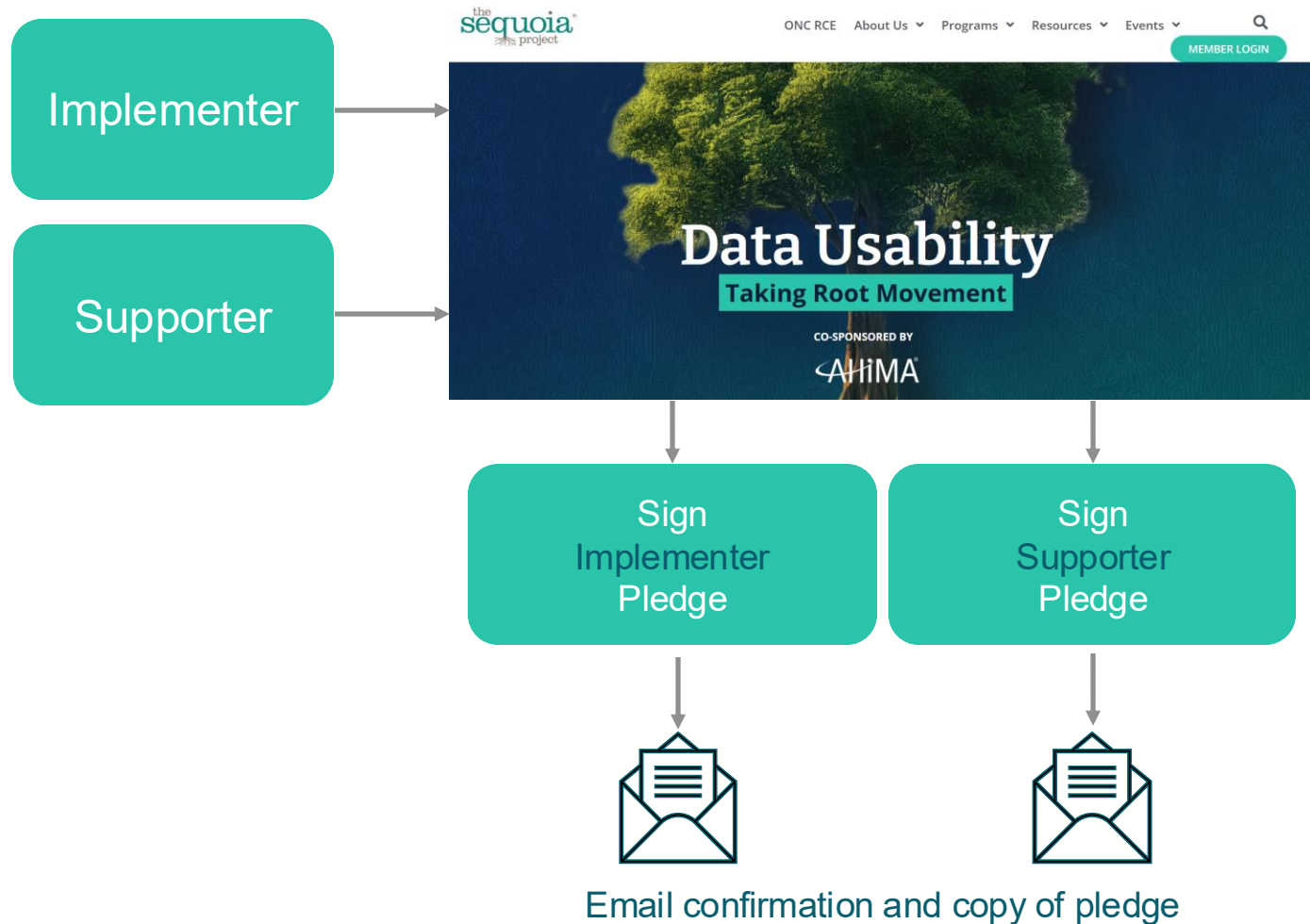
In-person Convenings



Participation Levels



Pledge Process



Those who have pledged will have password-protected access to Data Usability Taking Root Resources on the Sequoia website

Organizations that have pledged to participate!



Taking Root Meetings

- Jan 28 2pm ET: Community of Practice Roundtable
- Apr 22 2pm ET: Community of Practice Roundtable
- May 28 2pm ET: Community of Practice Roundtable
- ★ Aug 26 2pm ET: Community of Practice Roundtable
- Oct 28-29 Sequoia Annual Meeting
- Dec 2 2pm ET: Community of Practice Roundtable

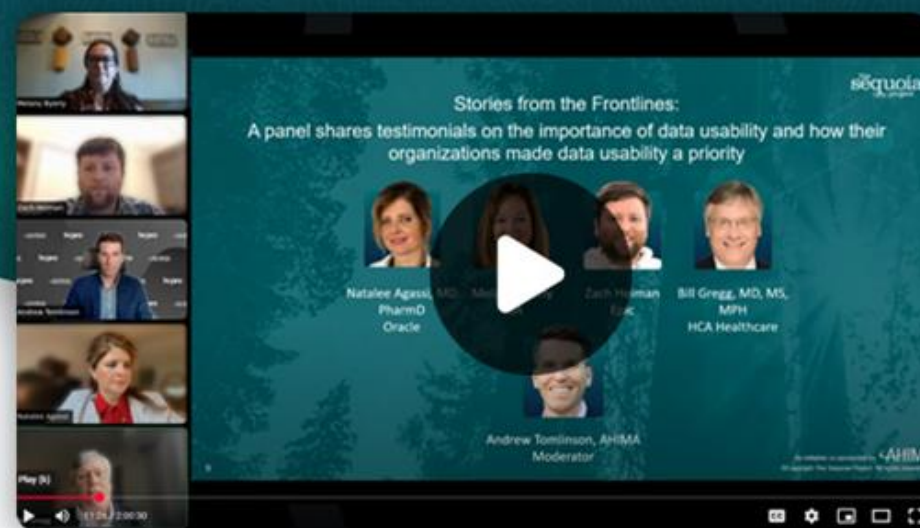
- Fall 2026
 - AHIMA Health Informatics Summit – August 28, 2026
 - ½ Day Virtual Data Usability Workshop – November 17, 2026



Data Usability Virtual Workshop

Driving Better Outcomes by Improving
Usability of Clinical Data

CO-SPONSORED BY AHIMA[®]



View Recordings Here:

<https://sequoiaproject.org/data-usability-taking-root-virtual-workshop/>

Virtual Workshop
Video Recordings Now
Available

An initiative co-sponsored by AHIMA[®]

Data Usability Work Group

For more information:

www.sequoiaproject.org/interoperability-matters/data-usability-workgroup/



(571) 327-3640



Interopmatters@sequoiaproject.org



takingroot@sequoiaproject.org

To join the Community of Practice Roundtables, please sign up as a Supporter, Implementer or Sponsor here:

<https://sequoiaproject.org/data-usability-taking-root-movement/>

**Thank You for your support of
Interoperability Matters!**



Annual Meeting- October 28-29, 2026

- The Sequoia Project and Carequality Annual Meeting is moving to the Texas Hill Country, near Austin. The Lost Pines Resort and Spa is an upscale, 400+ acre ranch.
- [Book](#) your room at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines today.
- Consider [sponsorship](#)
- Register [here](#):

Q&A

Stay In Touch with the Civitas Team



Scan for Civitas Resources

www.civitasforhealth.org