



CHARTER of the
HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

A. Official Designation

The Health Information Technology Research and Development (HITRD) Interagency Working Group (IWG) is hereby established by action of the Subcommittee on Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Committee on Technology (CoT)¹.

B. Purpose

The purpose of the HITRD IWG is to advance information technology R&D for improving health by providing a forum for sharing information about Federal health IT R&D programs, coordinating health IT R&D plans and activities, and promoting synergies across Federal health IT investments. This includes, but is not limited to, information technology R&D across the lifespan in the areas of diagnosis, treatment and surveillance, disease prevention, healthcare, and disaster and emergency response that supports improved health outcomes. The HITRD IWG will work collaboratively to articulate health IT R&D needs to policy and decision makers; pursue interagency opportunities and collaborations that advance IT R&D, data sharing, integration and connectivity, and innovative health IT systems; promote the accessibility and usability of health IT systems; and promote workforce development through building and sustaining a community of health IT researchers to address current and future needs. This will involve the development of a strategic R&D framework to examine current investments and identify opportunities and challenges in health IT R&D that are of mutual interest to the participating agencies. The framework will result in better coordination of activities and new synergistic initiatives, as appropriate.

C. Objectives

- Develop a strategic R&D framework to examine current investments and identify opportunities and challenges in health IT research

¹ The NSTC/CoT/NITRD was originally chartered on December 10, 1991. The most recent charter was signed July 10, 2013.

- Articulate health IT R&D needs to policy and decision makers
- Pursue interagency opportunities that advance IT research, data sharing, integration and connectivity, and innovative health IT systems

D. Functions

The HITRD IWG shall perform the following functions:

- Across-agency coordination:
 - Coordinate and collaborate across Federal agencies, other NITRD bodies, and other NSTC committees as appropriate on issues of mutual interest, especially in relation to advancements in IT for improving health.
 - Develop and maintain strong and forward-looking agendas that represent the current and future evolution of Information Technology Research and Development (IT R&D) that supports improved health outcomes.
 - Identify interagency and cross-cut opportunities for collaboration, coordination, and leveraging among agencies in health IT R&D that include, but are not limited to, activities in support of the development of a strategic R&D framework for health IT (use cases, workshops, white papers, or other building block activities).
 - Provide a forum for agencies to exchange program-level information about agency activities (Annual Planning Meeting or Data Call).
 - Select and maintain collegial leadership and dynamic membership.
- Work with the NITRD Program:
 - Develop, maintain, and periodically update interagency short-, mid-, and/or long-range strategic plans and priorities.
 - Participate and support NITRD outreach (workshops, conferences, and other meetings) to support the IWG's agenda.
 - Prepare and maintain an active charter with a specific purpose and objectives.
 - Provide inputs to NITRD's annual Supplement to the President's Budget.
 - Provide inputs to NITRD's annual Activities Report summarizing the IWG's activities.
 - Schedule and participate in regularly scheduled and ad hoc meetings, and maintain documentation of the meeting discussions.
- Work with other stakeholders:
 - Assist and support the NITRD Subcommittee in responding to the recommendations of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), and responding to inquiries from NSTC, Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and Congress.
 - Provide inputs to NSTC strategic and Federal Plans when requested.

E. Membership

The following NITRD Member agencies are represented on the HITRD IWG²:

- Department of Commerce;
- Department of Defense;
- Department of Health and Human Services;
- National Science Foundation;

The following organizations of the Executive Office of the President may also be represented on the HITRD IWG:

- Office of Management and Budget; and
- Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Federal departments, agencies, and councils that participate in the HITRD IWG's activities include:

- Department of Veterans Affairs; and

such other Executive organizations, departments, and agencies as the Subcommittee or IWG Co-chairs may designate as appropriate.

F. Leadership

The Co-chairs of the HITRD IWG shall be named and approved by the NITRD Subcommittee Co-chairs.

G. Private-Sector Interface

The HITRD IWG may work with appropriate private-sector³ entities, including the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, and will recommend to the NITRD Subcommittee the nature of any additional advice needed to accomplish its mission. The HITRD IWG may interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups, consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

H. Resources

The NITRD NCO shall provide project management, technical, information technology/networking, and administrative support services to the HITRD IWG as part of its responsibilities to the NITRD Subcommittee.

I. Termination

Unless renewed by the Co-chairs of the NITRD Subcommittee prior to its expiration, the HITRD IWG shall terminate no later than December 30, 2017.

² Changes to membership may occur without requiring a charter amendment. After charter ratification, membership and changes to membership may be tracked in a separate document.

³ The Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., as amended, does not explicitly define "private sector", but the phrase is generally understood to include individuals or entities outside the Federal government such as, but not limited to, the following: non-Federal sources, academia, State, local or tribal governments, individual citizens, the public, non-governmental organizations, industry associations, and international bodies.

J. Determination

I hereby determine that the establishment of the HITRD IWG is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed by the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:

Keith A. Marzullo, Ph.D. 3/1/16
Co-chair
Subcommittee, Networking and Information
Technology R&D

James Kurose, Ph.D. 3/2/16
Co-chair
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