# DHIN Dialogue

## September 2022

A Newsletter from Delaware Health Information Network

## Charting the Course for FY23

**Technology Transition on Deck**

Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN) kicked off a new Fiscal Year with an ambitious set of corporate performance goals. Included is an important technology transition, building and deploying an enhanced version of our Community Health Record. (More on that undertaking below…)

Each of the goals developed by the DHIN management team and approved by the Board of Directors represents one of four areas critical to evaluating an organization's overall health.

### DHIN's FY23 Organizational Goals

**Financial**

Develop a 3-year pro-forma showing overall financial sustainability after completion of technology refresh

**Customer**

Complete essential FY23 milestones for CHR transition

**Internal Processes**

Automate 200 hours of manual work processes

Resolve current weaknesses in DHIN's Knowledge Management System through Sharepoint optimization

**Learning & Growth**

At least five DHIN managers will achieve a new certification in business relationship management

You'll hear more about each of these goals in Dr. Jan Lee's monthly Town Hall meetings, held virtually the second Wednesday of the month at 11 am and available at dhin.org/dhincast. To attend, please reach out to ali.charowsky@dhin.org for Zoom credentials.

## On the Horizon!

**To better serve the clinicians and patients who rely on the Community Health Record, an upgraded version will soon go into development! The DHIN team is working on requirements for the new version, with an eye on a late 2023 launch.**

***Did you know?***

***The average ambulatory practice views the CHR 180 times each day.***

## Welcome Aboard!

The DHIN team continues to grow, and two new additions are already making a big impact!

Our newest project manager, **Anthony Johnson**, comes to DHIN with over 15 years of professional project management experience and more than a decade supporting the health IT industry. Outside of his professional life, Anthony loves to bowl, spend time with his family and volunteer in his community.

**Garret Buie** has joined DHIN as an information technology architect. A native of Kansas City and a proud graduate of the University of Kansas, Garret formerly worked as integrated technology architect, focused on nursing mobility and clinical communications. He is an avid sports fan and loves all things gaming, movies and adventures.

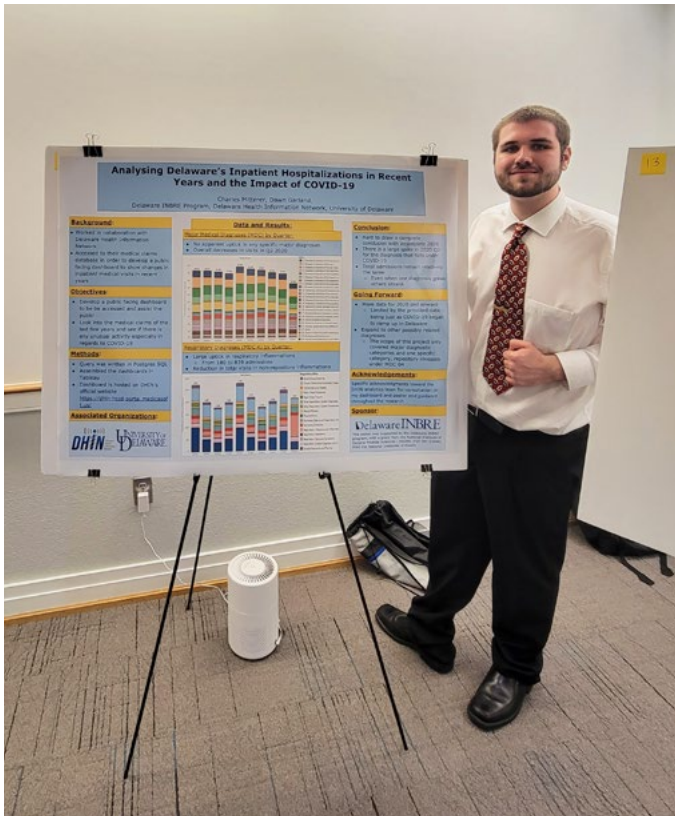
## Staying Social

Like. Follow. Tweet. Share.
**Connect with DHIN.**

## ICYMI

Check out our digital campaign promoting DHIN's personal health record, Health Check Connect. The ads run across various social media platforms, encouraging Delawareans to download our app and enroll in this free service.

Visit [dhin.org/hcc](dhin.org/hcc) to learn more!


## Collaborating for the Greater Good

Over the summer, the DHIN Analytics team had an opportunity to work with Delaware INBRE Summer Scholars recipient **Charles Mitterer** (pictured) on a timely COVID-19-related project. Over the course of 11 weeks, Charles and the DHIN team investigated the impact of COVID-19 on hospital admissions and developed a dashboard based on the inpatient Diagnosis Related Groups. Charles learned Tableau, a visual analytics platform, to create the dashboard and developed queries to explore the inpatient admissions.

This project was supported by the Delaware INBRE program, with a grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences – NIGMS (P20 GM103446) from the National Institutes of Health and the State of Delaware. Look for the report on DHIN's public reports portal shortly; in the meantime, check out the twelve reports already available!

# COVID-19 and Children: Information for Clinicians

*The Delaware Division of Public Health has provided the below Q&A for clinicians who may receive questions about the authorization of the COVID-19 vaccine for all children ages 6 months and older.*

The FDA authorization of the vaccine for kids under 5 allows us to finally reach a large and vulnerable segment of our population. During the Winter 2021-22 Omicron surge, children under 5 were hospitalized with the virus at *five times the rate* they were during the Fall 2021 Delta surge.

As a trusted health care provider and resource, you know how important your role is in ensuring the under 5 demographic gets their COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they are eligible. We also know that families will look to you for the most up-to-date information. Parents and guardians will have questions, and we want to be sure you can provide the answers.

Here are some questions you may get, with suggested answers.

***Question:*** At what age is my baby eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine?
**Answer:** Infants and children 6 months of age and older are eligible for the vaccine.

***Question:*** Which vaccine should I choose?
**Answer:** Both Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines were authorized for this age group, with slight differences between the two. Moderna's is a two-dose series of vaccine for children 6 months of age through age 5, using one-quarter the adult dosage. It has an estimated effectiveness which varies based on age. The Pfizer vaccine is a three-dose primary series that is one-tenth the adult dosage and is authorized for use with children ages 6 months through age 4. It has an estimated effectiveness of 80% after the third dose.

***Question:*** What are the side effects?
**Answer:** Side effects were generally mild, and no serious side effects were identified. DPH has included a convenient chart on de.gov/youthvaccine explaining the differences between the two vaccines and I'm happy to discuss this with you further to determine the best choice for your child.

For Moderna's vaccine, the most frequently reported side effects across all age groups were: pain, redness and swelling at the injection site; fever; and underarm (or groin) swelling/tenderness of lymph nodes in the same arm (or thigh) as the injection. In clinical trial participants 6 through 36 months of age, the most commonly reported side effects also included irritability/crying, sleepiness, and loss of appetite. In clinical trial participants 37 months through 5 years of age, the most commonly reported side effects also included fatigue, headache, muscle ache, chills, nausea/vomiting and joint stiffness.

With Pfizer's vaccine, the most commonly reported side effects in clinical trial participants 6 through 23 months of age were irritability, decreased appetite, fever and pain, tenderness, redness and swelling at the injection site. These side effects were also reported for the vaccine recipients 2 through 4 years age, in addition to fever, headache and chills.

Importantly, no cases of heart inflammation (myocarditis or pericarditis) were reported.

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***Question:*** How many doses?
**Answer:** Moderna's is a two-dose series of vaccine, which is one-quarter the adult dosage, and estimated effectiveness varies based on age. The Pfizer vaccine is a three-dose primary series that is one-tenth the adult dosage and has an estimated effectiveness of 80% after the third dose.

***Question:*** If I got the vaccine while pregnant, is my baby still protected?
**Answer:** A recent CDC study found that the odds of an infant below the age of six months being hospitalized because of COVID-19 is reduced to around 60% if the mother received two shots of either mRNA vaccine [Pfizer or Moderna]. As protection wanes, it is important to protect infants from the risk of infection and serious illness.

The Delaware Division of Public Health has information available to help you communicate directly with your patient families. These resources are free and easy to download and print.

We hope you will help us get as many children vaccinated as possible. With your support, we can continue to share the message that the COVID-19 vaccine is safe, effective, and our best defense in preventing serious illness. Check **de.gov/youthvaccine for the most up-to-date information about the COVID-19 vaccine for children**.