

# POLICY DEVELOPMENT

## Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN)

Jan Lee, MD, MMM, FAAFP

DHIN Chief Executive Officer and DHCC commissioner



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DELAWARE

# ***DHIN Update for Delaware Health Care Commission***

*Jan Lee, MD, MMM, FAAFP  
Chief Executive Officer  
June 13, 2024*



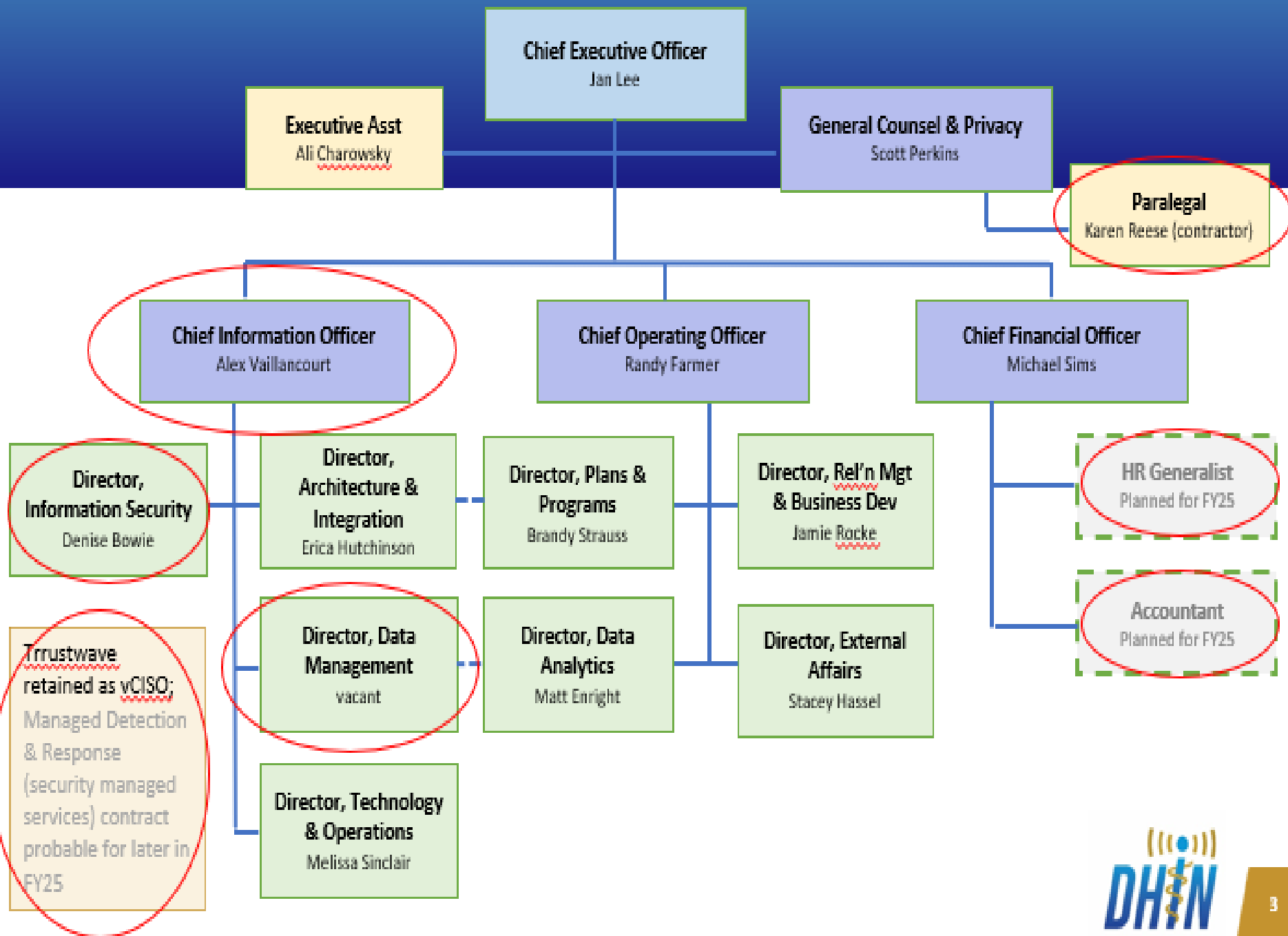
*Empowering  
data-driven decisions*

# *Outline*

**Looking Back**

**Current State**

**Looking Forward**



# FY24 Work

Gray text = work planned, but cancelled or on hold  
Pale blue text = pop-up projects not part of original FY23 work plan

- ✓ **CHR replacement**
- ✓ **Maryland reproductive data regs – multiple projects**
- ✓ HITRUST interim recertification
- ✓ ELT Pilot
- ✓ ONC Split Learning Phase 1
- ✓ Innovation Precision Health onboarding
- ✓ MedENT results delivery integration
- ✓ Highmark Data Quality Project
- ✓ VPN Upgrades
- ✓ Sharepoint optimization, Phase 3
- ✓ Legal intake & contract mgt tool implement'n
- ✓ Various internal automation projects
- ✓ Work management tool evaluation & selection
- Delaware Hospice Onboarding
- **MPI replacement**
- **ENS and CG replacement**
- CVS A1C CG onboarding
- NXT Insight implementation (clinical data warehouse)
- HIE Access Matrix Creation & Maintenance
- FY25 HITRUST full recertification
- Nemours LIS interface update
- Evergreen Nephrology Clinical Gateway
- Newark Urgent Care – replace EHR integration
- VA/DoD onboarding via eHealth Exchange
- Mackey FP EHR results delivery integration
- Highmark, Nemours SSO projects
- DE Hospital for the Chronically Ill onboarding
- DE Digestive Care – add pathology data

# *Drilling Down...CHR Replacement*

- Vendor for “old” CHR made the business decision to stop supporting it
- Very short notice – RFP, selection of replacement solution, and implementation extended beyond the period that Audacious Inquiry would support the “old”
- They allowed us to continue using, but would not commit to service levels, and would make no changes, even applying security patches in the face of known security vulnerabilities
- Replacing the CHR was our primary focus for much of FY24
- Phase 1 was to ensure no functionality was lost in the transition
- Phase 2 in FY25 will bring enhancements – a prioritized list has been provided to our vendor, and we expect a series of releases throughout FY25
- FY25 will also involve an effort to implement functionality already developed, but masked during implementation

# *Drilling Down...MPI*

- **The Master Person Index (MPI) is foundational technology that touches every service DHIN offers**
- **Enables us to match patient identities coming to us from disparate sources into a single record for a single person**
- **Requires a number of demographic elements to be reported by each data sender in order to get clean matches – some data senders are better than others at consistently supplying the needed demographics**
- **We are transitioning to "referential" matching – our new vendor uses a number of publicly available data sources as well as the data DHIN receives to enhance the match rate**
- **Transition to the new MPI requires meticulous testing and comparison of results to the old solution and "cleanup" of previous unmatched data**
- **We are delighted that through the advocacy of Senator Carper, we have received approval for a congressional earmark to support this very extensive effort**

# *Drilling Down...ENS and CG*

- **Event notification and clinical gateway – related services that enable DHIN to provide notifications of events (hospital or ED admission/discharge) or actual clinical data**
- **Both services require a subscriber to submit a roster of patients of interest**
- **These services are heavily subscribed, along with results delivery and the CHR**
- **The same vendor that let us down on the “old” CHR has been providing the technology to support these services**
- **We want to bring them in house, and have developed our own solutions – actively in testing and expected to be in production by end of FY24**
- **There will be an effort of several weeks/months to transition all subscribers**



# *Drilling Down... Maryland Regs*

- **Maryland requires all HIEs that do business there to register with the State and meet certain requirements**
- **DHIN met most of these requirements, and started FY24 with projects to close the gap**
- **Mid-year, Maryland passed legislation restricting sharing of data related to abortion services; the implementing regulations required significant new development work for DHIN**
- **This unexpected and very burdensome work crowded out a lot of other things – to accommodate roughly 7 Maryland patients annually (for DHIN)**
- **Ironically, shortly after the Maryland law/regs were passed, the HIPPA Privacy Rule was modified at the federal level**
- **Data related to services that were lawful in the jurisdiction where they were provided cannot be used for law enforcement purposes elsewhere**

# *Other Significant Work – ELT Pilot*

- **Payers must produce an extract of claims data from their systems that conform to DHIN’s content and format requirements**
- **Submission of claims data has involved a lot of rework for both payers and DHIN**
- **We piloted an alternative approach that would have the payers send us raw transactional claims files in near real time and have us do the necessary “packaging” on our end**
- **The pilot was successful; now comes the non-trivial effort to scale up!**

# *Other Significant Work...Analytics*

- Continued work with the State on the Cost Aware project
- Establish clinical data warehouse (NXT Insights) and technical capability to draw on clinical, claims, or both data sets for analytics work
- Implement tools to normalize document-based data, enable its use in analytics, HEDIS measure calculations, other use cases
- Change to DHIN Board By-Laws – convert the HCCD Administrative Committee to a Data Access Committee
- The reconstituted Data Access Committee will adjudicate requests for access to both clinical and claims data for analytics projects

# *Relevant Legal Developments*

- Updated HIPAA Privacy Rule – already mentioned
- Harmonization of HIPAA and 42 CFR Part 2 consent to share requirements
- HIPAA allows sharing of data without patient consent for a limited and well-defined set of use cases. (DHIN honors a patient's request to opt out of sharing, even if sharing is legal)
- 42 CFR Part 2 addresses sharing of Substance Use Disorder data – affirmative consent to share must be granted by the patient, and there are a number of required elements in a valid consent
- The updated rule still requires affirmative consent to share SUD data, but gives greater flexibility in the scope and duration of consent and aligns with HIPAA in enforcement/penalties and Notice of Privacy Practices requirements
- Clarifies the allowable role of HIEs in sharing SUD data

# ***FY25 Planned Work***

- **Continue CHR, ENS, CG enhancements**
- **HITRUST full assessment (including new CHR)**
- **TEFCA onboarding**
- **Ongoing internal projects for efficiency, modernization, compliance**
- **Continued efforts to grow and mature our analytics service line**
- **Onboarding projects (data senders, service subscribers)**
- **Work with DSAMH on their Care Coordination platform (DTRN-260)**
- **Ongoing work to enable patient access to data through the app of choice**
- **Ongoing work to simplify collection/documentation of patient consent to share data**
- **Ongoing work to support payers in their HEDIS measure data collection**

# Strategic Themes

- FY25 will be Year 4 of our current five-year strategic plan
- Major strategic themes continue to be:

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## **New Sources/Types of Data**

- Claims, Behavioral Health, SDOH, other?

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## **Strengthen Our Ties to the State**

- 75% of current analytics work is for State agencies
- Establish solid relationship with incoming administration

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## **Business Sustainability**

- The market for DHIN's historic core services is tapped out
- Cost of doing business continues to grow
- New service lines and new markets are crucial for sustainability

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## **Maintain Our Current Strengths and Advantages:**

- Trusted, neutral, not-for-profit providing a public good



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Q & A?