

Civitas Networks for Health 2022 Advocacy Agenda

Civitas Networks for Health aims to affirm the role of its members in the nationwide interoperability and health improvement landscapes to aid individual, population, and public health; further health equity; and improve health outcomes. The goal is to build partnerships, influence funding and legislation, as well as advocate for regulatory actions that support Civitas members' critical work.

2022 Priorities and Key Activities

- 1. Educate and advise policymakers and regulators about Civitas members and their significance to the nation's public health systems and health care infrastructure.**
 - Meet and engage with key congressional policymakers to garner support for health equity-enabling health improvement work, and health IT infrastructure and data exchange.
 - Continue to serve as an educational resource to Capitol Hill for our industry.
 - Congressional committee targets/personal office committee members:
 - Senate HELP Committee – completed over 13 meetings and are targeting at least an additional 10 meetings by the third quarter.
 - House Energy and Commerce Committee – completed over 5 meetings and are targeting an additional 14 meetings by the third quarter.
 - Senate Finance Committee – completed over 4 meetings and are targeting an additional 11 meetings by the third quarter.
 - House Ways and Means Committee – completed over 2 meetings and are targeting at least an additional 11 meetings by the third quarter of 2022.
 - Meetings are prioritized based on current policy jurisdiction for each committee.
 - Other Congressional targets:
 - House Health Innovation Caucus, House SDOH Caucus, House and Senate Appropriations Committees, Congressional offices with Civitas footprint
 - Federal Agency Targets:
 - CMS/CMCS – held two meetings and continue follow up regarding cost allocation challenges. Will assist with coordination of and feedback to CMS in 2022.
 - ONC – continue to engage with leadership on TEFCA and public health data needs.
 - OMB – potentially requesting meeting re: A-87 waiver, if necessary, based on CMS efforts.
 - White House – engage with health policy staff to introduce Civitas
 - HHS leadership – coordinate senior level official meetings as needed
 - Develop and build Civitas policy champions, including Board and engaged Civitas members.
 - Maintain legislative meetings and issues tracker on policies of interest.
- 2. Support legislative proposals that revitalize public health and advance opportunities to address SDOH with an emphasis on long-term infrastructure funding.**
 - Modernize data infrastructure to support SDOH data sharing and require modern, interoperable data systems to share information at the individual- and system-level.
 - Support congressional efforts to prioritize SDOH and serve as a resource on how data can be used to identify and address public health and SDOH deficiencies.
 - Leverage NASDOH membership and partnership – participate in their policy committee, share policy updates with members, co-create/sign onto comment letters and participate collectively in meetings with the administration when there is opportunity for greater impact.

- Gather and share use cases related to procurement, implementation and outcomes specific to social care platforms, referrals and multistakeholder governance.
- 3. Support legislative proposals and models identified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Innovation Center that drive accountable care, advance health equity and address health care affordability.**
- Engage CMMI leadership specific to the aims in the Center's Strategy Refresh – drive accountable care, advance health equity, support innovation, address affordability and partner to achieve system transformation.
 - QPP SURS – Civitas supports legislation to extend the QPP SURS program to 2027. The program will end February 2022, yet there is a coalition forming and Civitas will support these efforts (i.e., letters of support, congressional outreach, etc.)
 - QIOs and RHICS have an interest in QPP SURS extension and similar policy programs.
 - Track relevant CMS policy changes and opportunity for comments. Utilize the Council to organize member feedback.
 - Health Innovation Caucus – focuses on healthcare policy driven by innovation and health technology advancements and is very large and active on the Hill (host stakeholder events, briefings, meetings, etc.). The caucus presents an opportunity to build new Civitas champions on specific innovation policy issues.
- 4. Encourage the creation of and funding for Health Data Utilities (HDU), which would empower nonprofit or state agency-run health information networks across the country. Our goal is to support and facilitate information flow between public health and clinical/claims health IT systems while protecting privacy and ensuring security.**
- Internal collaboration with Civitas members to promote and discuss HDU and/or supporting policies and legislation that will enhance critical health IT infrastructure.
 - External collaboration with aligned stakeholders (over 2 dozen coalition supporters, including Civitas members).
 - Continue to promote the underlying legislative intent in the Senate HELP PREVENT Pandemics discussion draft (released 1/25/22)
 - Submitted Civitas comment letter to Senate HELP Committee 2/4/22
 - Seek support from Champion members of Congress on and off HELP Committee during legislative process
 - Identify other legislative vehicles for consideration of HDU and the primary intent of the policy, i.e., through 21st Century Cures 2.0, FY23 Appropriations, etc.
 - Develop and implement a national strategy to prevent and respond to pandemics and other public health emergencies.
 - This includes point-of-care testing and methods of interoperable data sharing between public and private entities where testing informs surveillance, pandemic monitoring, and response efforts. Data coordination is essential to the delivery of patient-level clinical information during a pandemic.
- 5. Build industry partnerships by engaging other community stakeholders and industry leaders to build support for various policy positions and regulatory actions.**
- Establish partnership opportunities to support aligned policy actions through regular meetings, programs, reciprocal arrangements, and communication.
 - Key partners include The Sequoia Project, HIMSS, NASDOH, DirectTrust, NASHP, NAHDO, AcademyHealth