

Participate in

THE HEALTH IT MODERNIZATION PROGRAM AWARENESS SURVEY



SCAN ME



**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM OUR
TRIBAL AND URBAN
PARTNERS!**



Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer PATH EHR Activities Update

March 5, 2026

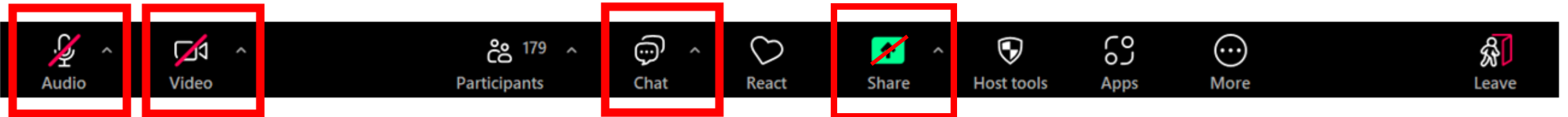
Indian Health Service
Health Information Technology
Modernization Program



Zoom Technical Notes and Support



- If you lose connectivity during the session, simply **re-click your access link** to re-join the meeting
- If you experience technical difficulties, **send a note using the chat box** on the bottom menu bar – we will assist you from there



- Enjoy the session!



Opening in a Good Way

Denise Busch
Iñupiaq

Rules of Engagement

- 1** Active participation is welcome **from tribal and urban Indian organization representatives only**
- 2** Before commenting or asking a question, **please share your name and the Tribe or urban Indian organization** you are representing in the Zoom chat
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Agenda

Health Information Technology (IT) Modernization Overview & Updates	Dr. Howard Hays <i>Chief Medical Information Officer</i>	1:40 - 1:45 p.m. ET
Pilot Site Update	Keith Martinez <i>DHITMO External Oversight Manager</i>	1:45 - 1:50 p.m. ET
Modernization Focus: PATH EHR Activities Update	Dr. Howard Hays , <i>Chief Medical Information Officer</i> Clarence Smiley , <i>DHITMO Program Manager</i>	1:50 – 2:10 p.m. ET
Open Dialogue	Emily Emen <i>DHITMO OCM Communications Lead</i>	2:10 - 2:50 p.m. ET
Upcoming Engagement Opportunities	Emily Emen <i>DHITMO OCM Communications Lead</i>	2:50 - 2:55 p.m. ET
Closing	Clarence Smiley <i>DHITMO Program Manager</i>	2:55 - 3:00 p.m. ET



Health IT Modernization Overview & Updates

Dr. Howard Hays

Chief Medical Information Officer

Health IT Modernization Program



Vision



Provide the best possible EHR, managed by its users, for its users, that will drive high-quality health care through sustainable, modern, and easy-to-use tools

PATH EHR Key Priorities

Unify patient health records to improve access

Build *with* our tribal and urban partners, not *for* them

Coordinate care across providers and sites

Support end users with training and resources

Empower patients in their health journey

Ensure sustainability of the system

Protect data with robust security

Localize to meet the needs of each site



PATH EHR and the Enterprise Collaboration Group



PATH EHR and the Enterprise Collaboration Group



Pilot Site Update

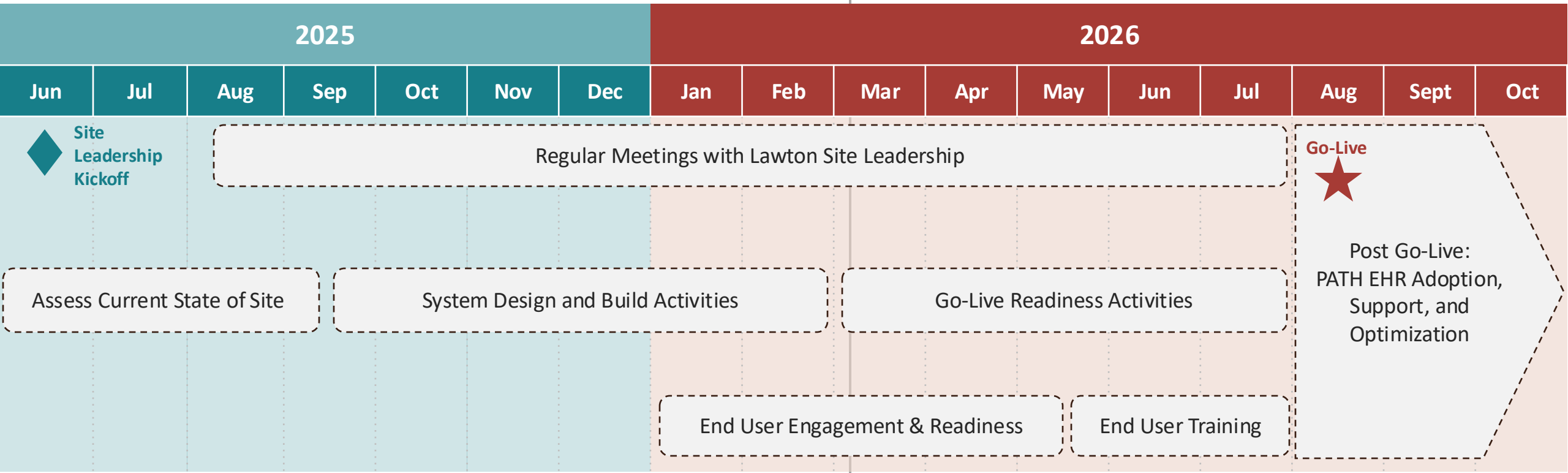
Keith Martinez

DHITMO External Oversight Manager



Lawton Deployment Timeline

The PATH Team is partnering with Lawton leaders and staff to ensure all key activities are complete to support go-live

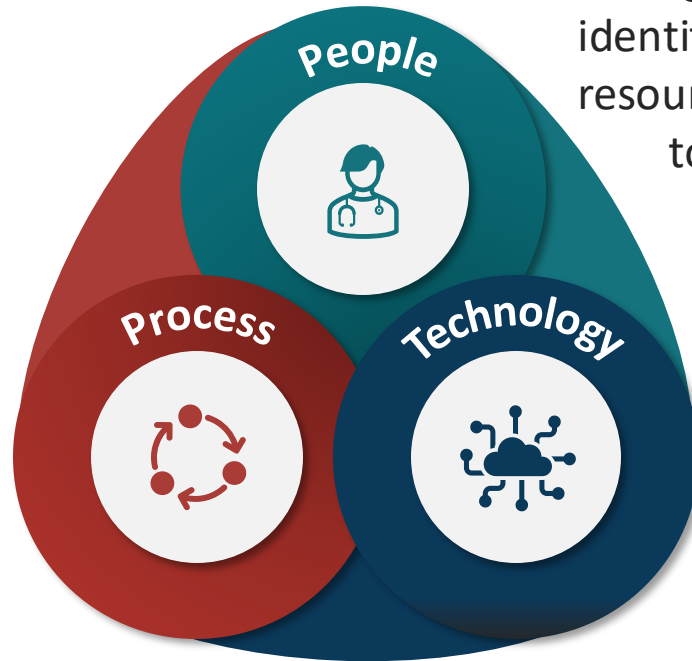


Pilot Site: Continuous Improvements

Lawton Service Unit helps to identify challenges, gather feedback, and refine the implementation process for future sites

What We're Learning

Validate clinical and operational workflows early to streamline system configuration and support usability



Engage early and often to identify roles, provide access to resources, and set expectations to build readiness and confidence

Evaluate hardware, equipment, and interfaces early to better support implementation

Impacts for Future Sites

- ✓ Tested engagement approach with clearly defined roles
- ✓ Pre-validated technical requirements and system configurations
- ✓ Repeatable process for assessing workflows and system customization



Modernization Focus: PATH EHR Activities Update

Dr. Howard Hays, *Chief Medical Information Officer*

Clarence Smiley, *DHITMO Program Manager*

Consultation and Confer Questions



1

What clarifications do you need regarding PATH EHR activities?

2

What additional information or content would be helpful to better understand PATH EHR implementation at your site?

3

What potential opportunities do you foresee for staff or patients in implementing PATH EHR?

Building PATH EHR

PATH EHR is being built collaboratively by expert users across Indian Country



Enterprise Design Workshops

Jan. – Nov. 2025



Reviewed current-state workflows, assessed future-state designs, and made recommendations that reflect the diverse practices and needs across I/T/U sites

Future State Review

Nov. 2025



Ensure the designed workflows are streamlined, patient-centered, and aligned for implementation

Integrated Testing

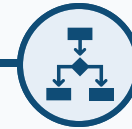
Dec. 2025 – Mar. 2026



Walked through common scenarios to confirm that the design decisions made during the workshops operate correctly within PATH EHR

Baseline Checkpoint

Mar. 2026



Ensure the system meets the necessary security and compliance standards

Streamlined Workflows with PATH EHR

Examples of how PATH EHR can streamline day-to-day work over time. These are not comprehensive, and implementation timing will vary by site.



Medication Safety & Pharmacy Continuity

- ✓ Shared medication histories across sites
- ✓ Barcode enabled medication safety
- ✓ Safer medication renewals

Why it Matters: Supports safer care, reduces rework, and improves continuity for patients across sites



Care Coordination & Follow-Through

- ✓ Linked orders and appointments
- ✓ Comprehensive care follow-through across sites
- ✓ Reduced uncertainty in scheduling completion

Why it Matters: Improves visibility and helps care teams stay aligned



Patient Access & Communication

- ✓ Accessible patient portal
- ✓ Automated appointment reminders
- ✓ Reduced reliance on paper communications

Why it Matters: Expands access, improves communication, and supports timely patient engagement

End User Learning Experience

Empowering users with the knowledge to adopt and skills to use PATH EHR



- Self-Paced e-Learning
- Instructor-Led Training (Enterprise workflows)
- Practice Labs, Favorite Fair and Sign-on Fair
- Continuous Learning via SharePoint (Job Aids and Refresher Training)
- Lessons Learned and Optimization Activities Post Go-Live

End-User Training

Hands-On Practice & Events

Reinforcement Learning

Ongoing Process Improvement

Focus Group Key Outcomes

Focus groups provide an opportunity for subject matter experts to share information and expertise concerning issues of interest to all I/T/U organizations related to EHR implementation.

Health IT Implementation

Cohort Readiness

- **Readiness Actions:** Discussion on how to prepare for an EHR across three key areas: Organizational, Operational, and Technical
- **Implementation Roles:** Feedback on the kinds of support roles needed for a successful EHR implementation
- **Interoperability:** Feedback and questions on the need for system integration for an EHR

Data Management and Analytics

Strategic Data Management

- **Data Reporting:** Feedback and discussion on different methods for analyzing data and gaining insights
- **Data Challenges:** Discussion on challenges with gathering and managing data, like the use of too many platforms that do not integrate and the need to constantly pull data for live, accurate numbers

Interoperability

Patient Portals

- **Patient Portals:** Feedback and discussion on strategies to increase patient portal utilization, including enrollment support and outreach through social media
- **Identity Proofing:** Conversation around identity proofing barriers, minor privacy limitations, and language accessibility needs



Open Dialogue

Emily Emen

DHITMO OCM Communications Lead

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Consultation and Confer Questions



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Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

Emily Emen

DHITMO OCM Communications Lead

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the middle ground, surrounded by dense green and autumn-colored trees. In the background, rolling hills are visible under a sky filled with soft, grey clouds. The foreground is dominated by the branches and leaves of trees, some with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of orange and yellow, while others are still green. A large, white, semi-transparent circle is centered over the image, containing the text.

Cohort Planning

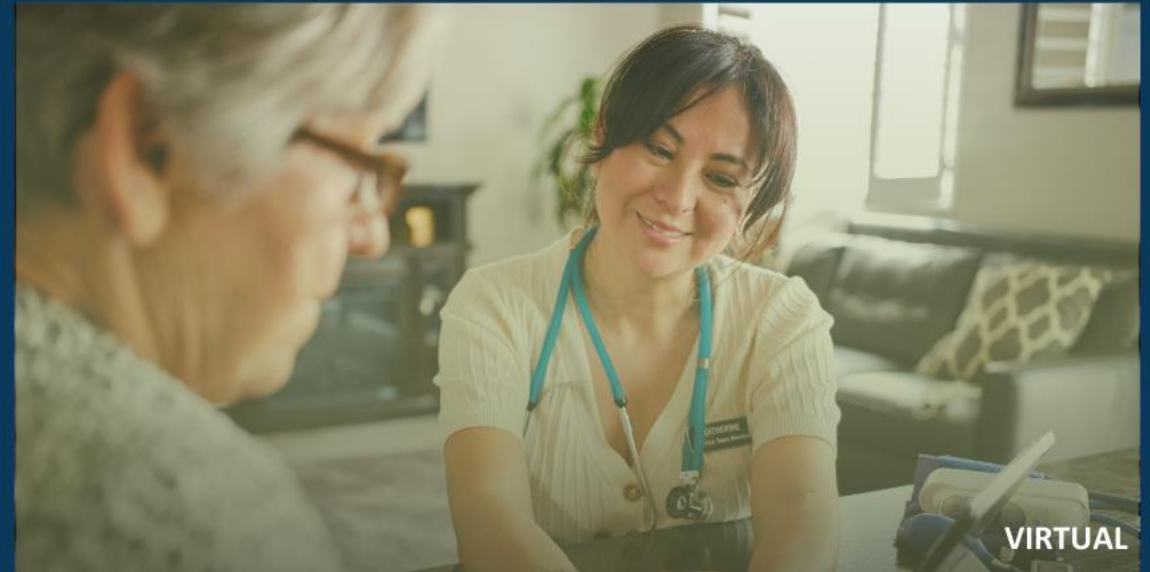
More information and
resources are coming soon

2026 TRIBAL CONSULTATION *and* URBAN CONFER



Health IT Modernization Program

Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer (TC/UC) sessions provide an opportunity for our tribal and urban Indian organization partners to hear about Program updates from IHS leadership and provide input about modernization-focused topics for continued improvement of patient outcomes across Indian Country.



**ROADMAP TO
COHORTS**
AUGUST 6



Engage with the Modernization Program

MODERNIZATION LISTSERV

Email Updates

We invite you to sign up for the Modernization Listserv to receive email updates, including upcoming engagement opportunities



Sign up for email updates to stay connected to the Modernization Program at IHS.gov/HIT

IHS MODERNIZATION WEBSITE

Resource Hub

Documents, Presentations, Modernization Blog Posts, Modernization Tribal/Urban Leader Letters, Modernization Video Series, and Social Media



Visit IHS.gov/HIT/Resource-Hub to find all resources related to the Modernization Program

TC/UC SATISFACTION SURVEY

*Your input will allow the IHS to improve future events,
communications, and programming.*

SCAN ME





Closing

Clarence Smiley

DHITMO Program Manager



IHS Mission

To raise the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level



IHS Vision

Build healthy communities and quality health care systems through strong partnerships and culturally responsive practices

Questions?

Please email the Modernization Program at modernization@ihs.gov

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