



Texas HIMSS Advocacy Newsletter - October 2021

Health IT policy is complex. To make a real impact on public policy, health advocacy is vital and requires strong, respected and coordinated voices.

HIMSS Chapter advocates connect with and educate policymakers at state, provincial and local levels, amplify public policy priorities, research the issues, build coalitions and monitor legislation—all with the goal of influencing public policy. When successful, health advocacy has the power to:

- Guide health IT policy roadmaps
- Enact legislation
- Secure funding for strategic public policy support
- Share stories, data, information, and public policy positions

A newsletter to update you on Texas Health Advocacy.

Your Texas HIMSS Advocacy Committee

Texas Advocacy Team



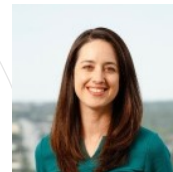
Elsie Gori
Division Dir of Nursing
Analytics St. David's



Joseph Kunisch
VP Quality Program's Quality
Harris Health



Lee Lavergne
VP Advocacy
DFW HIMSS



Sarah Churchill Llamas
Chair, Healthcare
Group @ Winstead



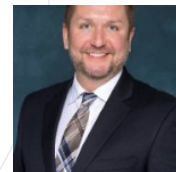
Donna Montgomery
Clinical Informatics Officer
at Lone Star



Tony Morgan
Healthcare IT Leader
and Clinical Informatics



Nasim Rezanejad
Physician Solution
Analyst @UTHealth



Mark Steiger
VP – Clinical Operations
Optum Center for
Digital Health

Mark your calendars

- Global Health Equity Week October 25th - October 29th

Since 2006, U.S. National Health IT Week has brought together stakeholders in Washington, DC and across the country to demonstrate the power of information and technology to transform health. HIMSS is pleased to use the power of this partner-driven platform to launch Global Health Equity Week, an initiative focused on displaying the value and potential of

health information and technology to transform health and support the elimination of health disparities, taking place October 25-29, 2021.

- In person and Virtual Health Advocacy Day in Austin February 7th and 8th more details to come ...

Global Health Equity Week

- Three virtual Lunch and Learns

October 26th
Tuesday
12 pm – 1 pm
[Telehealth Texas Zoom Link](#)
(11:30 am -1:00 pm)



Telehealth Texas
Nora Belcher
Executive Director at Texas e-Health Alliance

October 27th
Wednesday
12 pm – 1 pm
[Maternal Health Zoom Link](#)
(11:30 am -1:00 pm)



Maternal Health
Dr. Catherine Eppes
Maternal Fetal Medicine
Physician, Baylor College of
Medicine
Chief of Obstetrics, Ben Taub
Hospital

October 28th
Thursday
12 pm – 1 pm
[Texas interoperability Zoom Link](#)
(11:30 am -1:00 pm)



Texas Interoperability
Katherine Lusk
Senior Director Strategic
Partnerships at Texas Health
Services Authority

- Other ways to get involved in Global Health Equity Week and beyond:
Help HIMSS lead the charge for health equity with insights, best practices and resources through virtual and in-person education, events and networking during the week. *Here are six ways you can take action.*
 - **Lead the change with us:** Be part of the [HIMSS Global Health Equity Network](#) and advance health and wellness for everyone, everywhere.
 - **Join our virtual march:** Participate in our [virtual march](#) to support maternal health, telehealth, patient identity and data modernization.
 - **Support workforce diversity:** Contribute to the [HIMSS Foundation](#) to fund scholarships that equip diverse students for careers in health information and technology.
 - **Innovate to improve access:** The HIMSS Global Health Equity Network has partnered with Accelerate Health to host a virtual, global tech challenge focused on improving maternal health outcomes. [The HIMSS Maternal Health Tech Challenge](#) will crowdsource

technology solutions from across the globe, culminating in a live competition hosted at HIMSS21. [Sign up](#) to participate in or support the challenge today.

- **Share your health equity story:** Engage on social media using #HealthEquity.
- **Learn and connect:** Attend health equity webinars and networking events. Check out the [schedule of events](#) for more details.

Conclusion and Future Events

The Texas HIMSS Committee will continue to update and organize events that will help our community get involved. Feel free to contact anyone on the committee if you have input and are wanting to get involved.

As promised, upcoming events:

October 25 - 29, 2022: **Global Health Equity Week** aka HIT Week

February 7th - 8th, 2022: **Texas Health Advocacy Day** - in Austin

Sincerely,

Your Texas HIMSS Advocacy Committee