



Via Electronic Mail

March 27, 2023

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RE: Response to letter dated March 2, 2023 (BH interdisciplinary group)

Dear Constituents:

Thank you for your recent letter and for the vital care you provide to our state's residents. Governor Lamont has asked that we respond on his behalf. We appreciate your concerns and value your feedback about the official statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE), Connie.

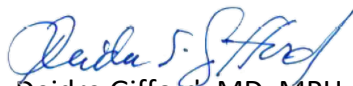
Connecticut General Statute § 17b-59e, requires all healthcare providers "to begin the process of connecting" to Connie within two years of the HIE being operational, which would be May 3,

2023. This deadline was enacted by the legislature, and as such OHS does not have the authority to modify it. We have however provided the following guidance:

To begin the process of connecting, providers must electronically submit a Commitment to Connect form located on Connie's website. This form requires basic information about the providers' business organization. No health care data is exchanged at this stage. Data sharing occurs after completing a multi-step collaborative process between providers and Connie.

We have posted a [FAQ](#) section on our website, which addresses some of the key topics in your letter, and further explains the requirements to begin the process of connecting. This section will be updated periodically, as the behavioral health engagement remains active. Additionally, Connie will create and lead working groups, by provider type, to address specific concerns raised by various provider groups, and allow further discussions about HIE operations, while addressing concerns articulated in your letter. We look forward to your participation in future engagement.

Sincerely,



Deidre Gifford, MD, MPH

Senior Advisor to the Governor for Health and Human Services
Executive Director, Office of Health Strategy

cc: Governor Ned Lamont, The Office of Governor Ned Lamont
Sumit Sajnani, Health Information Technology Officer, Office of Health Strategy
Jenn Searles, Executive Director of Connie