MITA Governance Board Newsletter

Deputy Director's Corner

It was great to see those able to attend the Medicaid Enterprise System Conference (MESC) last month. This year was coined the "Year of Metrics". The goal is to encourage states to report their ongoing metrics each year to measure system performance, obtain approval for enhanced funding for operations, and ensure that the program's goals are being met.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) vision to transform Medicaid Information Technology Architecture (MITA) drove the decision to reestablish the MITA Governance Board (MGB) in March of 2023. The current MGB celebrated its 1 ½ year anniversary by providing progress updates made by its workgroups at MESC. The MGB and workgroup members also engaged with participants at the MITA workshops and at the MITA booth where MITA was the center of attention. While the current MGB term ends in 2025, it is the ambition of CMS to have both outgoing and incoming boards work toward producing a draft of the MITA 4.0 Framework and State Self-Assessment (SS-A). CMS is optimistic about achieving this goal. Thank you to all the volunteers who have contributed to this initiative! Please contact us at MITAGovBoard@cms.hhs.gov to provide feedback, suggestions or to get involved. – Ed

MITA 4.0 Logo Contest Winner

Thank you to all the state and vendor contestants who participated in the MITA logo contest sponsored by the MGB. A total of 30 logos were submitted to the MGB. The board reviewed and voted on the top four logos which were then showcased at the 2024 MESC in the MGB booth and voted on by visitors.

The winning logo was submitted by Acentra Health. This logo will be used for MITA 4.0 and in future versions that will be published by the CMS. Thanks again to all the participants and join CMS, the MGB and its workgroup members in congratulating Acentra!

MITA Booth at MESC

At this year's MESC in Louisville, Kentucky MITA had a booth next to the CMS booth which had a lot of traffic from many visitors. In addition to being able to vote for a new MITA logo, visitors could also test their Artificial Intelligence (AI) knowledge and get a copy of our MITA 4.0 Informational Bulletin and Talking Points for State Medicaid Agencies (SMAs) brochure which can be accessed at the following URL: https://cmsgov.github.io/Medicaid-Information-Technology-Architecture-MITA/newsletters/MPG-MESC-MITA-Digital.pdf. Visitors also got to see this year's MITA 4.0 Poster. If you were unable to attend you can find a picture of the poster at the following URL: 2024-Poster-8x4-MPG-MESC-MITA-screenshot.png (2451×1220) (cmsgov.github.io)

MITA: Your MES journey starts here

Speaking of URLs there is a New MITA GitHub Site

Please visit our new MITA GitHub Site at https://cmsgov.github.io/Medicaid-Information-Technology-Architecture-MITA/ to find the most current information related to the progress of MITA 4.0.

MITA 4.0 Workgroup Updates

Since the last newsletter was published in April of 2024, the MGB convened in May, June, July, August, and September of 2024. Workgroups also presented updates at the MESC and conducted interactive workshops. Below are some additional updates and information about the great work the MGB workgroups have been focused on recently along with future tasks they will focus on in the coming year.

MITA Governance Board (MGB) comprises 18 board members from 7 states, 5 vendors, and 4 federal agencies

MITA NextGen	MITA Interoperability	SS-A	Communication

~100 volunteers across **4 workgroups** with representation from **18 states**, **24 vendors**, and **3 federal agencies**
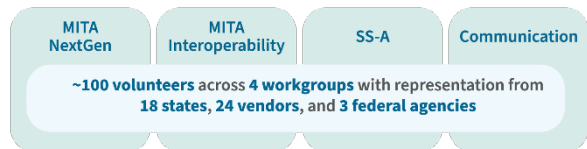
MITA State Self–Assessment (SS–A) Workgroup

The MITA SS-A Workgroup has taken requirements and design ideas gathered at last year's MITA workshop at MESC 2023 and worked on incorporating them into the new SS-A for MITA 4.0 which the workgroup focused on developing. The workgroup shared a preliminary SS-A Lifecycle Model and an Outcome Reference Model at the 2024 MESC MITA/SS-A workshop to gather valuable feedback on their applicability and usefulness. The insights gained from the workshop will be instrumental in refining these models as the workgroup progresses.

Sub workgroups have been making significant strides in creating essential tools for the SS-A:

- *Performance Strategy:* This sub workgroup is defining the scope of the SS-A and is exploring how it can be integrated into strategic planning efforts for states.
- *Performance Process:* This sub workgroup is framing the SS-A as a set of practices and tools that can be utilized across the enterprise. Their focus is on identifying goals, assessing processes, leveraging frontline staff to improve processes, and providing feedback to leadership.
- *Standard Reference Models and Templates:* This sub workgroup is developing reference models and templates. These tools are expected to guide the development and alignment of goals, outcomes and metrics across SMAs. They will also aid in managing and measuring the performance of the Medicaid Enterprise.

Looking Ahead – Plans for the Next Year: The SS-A Workgroup has ambitious plans for the upcoming year, including:

1. Developing a new maturity model tied to outcomes and metrics.
2. Creating an assessment tool based on the new maturity model.
3. Piloting these new tools with volunteer states.

The Role of the Business Architecture (BA)/Information Architecture (IA)/Technical Architecture (TA) in MITA Workgroup (MITA NextGen)

The MITA NextGen Workgroup has been diligently working to advance MITA by focusing on leveraging The Open Group Architecture Framework (TOGAF), a widely used framework for developing enterprise architecture. The group has adopted a structured approach to identify and build the necessary architectural components and sub-components that align with organizational goals. To streamline this process, the workgroup has established three sub workgroups, each dedicated to one of the architecture phases of TOGAF: Phase B (BA), Phase C (Information Systems Architecture), and Phase D (TA).

These sub workgroups were instrumental in developing a use case and capability model based on Long Term Care that was presented at the 2024 MESC MITA/SS-A workshop.

Looking Ahead – Plans for the Next Year: The MITA NextGen Workgroup plans to continue using TOGAF to develop the MITA 4.0 BA aligned with outcomes. Key initiatives include:

- Completing the MITA 4.0 BA.
- Collaborating with S-TAG/peer groups to gather feedback and input on proposed MITA 4.0 artifacts.

MITA Interoperability Workgroup

The MITA Interoperability Workgroup is comprised of a strong coalition of interoperability and Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) experts from state, industry, and federal agencies. It continues to meet frequently to develop tools and guidance for states as they continue to mature their interoperability. Key achievements of the workgroup over the past quarter include:

- Showcased a working proof of concept for Prior Authorization at the MESC 2024 Interoperability workshop, where participants engaged with various use cases to explore the potential applications in their respective states.
- Began drafting comprehensive API Regulation guidance and checklists to streamline the implementation of interoperability standards and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Established a MITA Interoperability Workgroup Prior Authorization Community of Practice. The community held its inaugural meeting on Monday, September 9, 2024, providing a platform for members to share insights, experiences and best practices.

Looking Ahead – Plans for the Next Year: The MITA Interoperability Workgroup is eager to increase state participation. Feedback from states is crucial in shaping the guidance and tools that are developed. For more information and to get involved, visit the Interoperability Corner on the MITA GitHub site which can be accessed at the following URL https://cmsgov.github.io/Medicaid-Information-Technology-Architecture-MITA/interoperability.html.

MITA Communications Workgroup

The MITA Communications Workgroup has had a productive year with several key initiatives aimed at enhancing the visibility and understanding of MITA 4.0. Key achievements of the workgroup over the past quarter include:

- Designed a MITA Poster for MESC 2024 poster session that provided a comprehensive summary of the status of MITA 4.0.
- Developed an information brochure that included additional Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and talking points for SMAs. This brochure is intended to clarify common queries and provide essential information about MITA.
- Increased presence at MESC 2024 by having dedicated MITA booth that served as a hub for answering questions about MITA 4.0 and facilitating networking opportunities with the MGB and workgroup members.
- Coordinated developing the rules and process to conduct the MGB sponsored contest to develop the new MITA logo.

Looking Ahead – Plans for the Next Year: The MITA Communications Workgroup plans to continue working on publishing its quarterly newsletter to keep the MITA community informed. In addition, the workgroup plans to focus on the following:

1. Expand MITA GitHub Site to communicate timely and comprehensive updates on the progress and status of MITA 4.0.
2. Continue having a presence at key conferences, including Health Information Technology (HIT) Connect, MESC and Information Technology (IT) Solutions Management for Human Services (ISM).
3. Develop a strategy and process for publishing MITA 4.0/SS-A that ensures the new guidance will be easier to access and navigate.

Get Involved

The MGB would like to see more participation, especially from states to shape the next version of MITA. Help us get the word out! If you are able to participate in workgroups, please contact the MGB. If you are a state or working with a state that is open to piloting, please also reach out to the MGB. The best way to do that is to do so via the MGB email at MITAGovBoard@cms.hhs.gov*.*

Scan to visit the MITA Governance Board's webpage.