

John Ohanian's Announcement to CPHS Committee on CDII Transition

From: Ohanian, John@CDII <John.Ohanian@chhs.ca.gov>

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To: larry.dickey@ucsf.edu; Hess, Catherine@CDPH <Catherine.Hess@cdph.ca.gov>; Ruiz, Juan@CHHS <Juan.Ruiz@CHHS.CA.GOV>; knitpixie@outlook.com; jschaeuble@csus.edu; dinis@csus.edu; Palacio, Philip@CDCR <Philip.Palacio@cdcr.ca.gov>; Carie.kutural@dds.ca.gov; Azizian, Allen@DSH-S <Allen.Azizian@dsh.ca.gov>; Ventura, Maria@DSH-S <Maria.Ventura@dsh.ca.gov>; Jonni.johnson@cdph.ca.gov; loislowe@surewest.net; mmmurphy@ucdavis.edu; Rykaczewska, Agnieszka@CDII <Agnieszka.Rykaczewska@CHHS.CA.GOV>
Cc: Rykaczewska, Agnieszka@CDII <Agnieszka.Rykaczewska@CHHS.CA.GOV>

Subject: A Transition and a Thank You

Dear Members of the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects,

I'm writing to share that I will be transitioning out of my role as Chief Data Officer for the State of California and Director of the Center for Data Insights and Innovation ([CDII](#)) at the California Health & Human Services Agency ([CalHHS](#)), effective August 1, 2025.

Since joining the State in 2020, it has been my honor to work alongside many of you to advance a bold and necessary vision: that data—when used safely, responsibly, and equitably—can be a powerful force for improving health outcomes and supporting Whole Person Care. CPHS serves a critical role in this research ecosystem, and I am grateful to you for working with CDII to ensure protection of human subjects.

As part of this transition, CalHHS is undertaking a strategic reorganization to better align CDII's critical workstreams with the evolving missions and priorities of the CalHHS departments and offices across the Agency. This shift will allow us to further embed our data-driven and innovation-focused initiatives directly within the operations and strategies of departments that benefit most from them—with a goal to further expand efforts made to date. The changes are as follows:

- The Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects ([CPHS](#)) and CDII's Insights Lab will transfer to the Office of Technology and Solutions Integration ([OTSI](#)) to bring a coordinated approach to driving the goals of streamlined data sharing and analytics to “see the whole person,” better understanding program utilization, and driving better health and human services outcomes.
- The [Office of the Patient Advocate](#) (OPA) and the [Data Exchange Framework](#) (DxF) will transfer to the [California Department of Health Care Access and Information](#) (HCAI). The addition of these programs highlights HCAI's profile as a trusted leader in the administration of programs and initiatives that are priorities of the Legislature and the Newsom Administration. Adding the OPA and DxF aligns with our mission work of improving healthcare access, affordability and quality.
- The Office of Health Information Integrity ([OHII](#)) will transfer to CalHHS Legal to continue to serve its agency wide mission

This evolution ensures our work will continue to grow and thrive where it is best positioned to serve Californians—and I'm confident the mission is in excellent hands. Special thanks go to our Neszka and the CPHS team for their dedication and accomplishments - Go Team!

While I don't yet have a next destination to announce, I remain deeply committed to advancing equity, data innovation, and person-centered systems across California—and I look forward to what's ahead. I hope our paths will cross again soon.

Thank you for your trust, partnership, and dedication. Please keep in touch.

John