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**

- Elsie Gori
  Division Dir of Nursing Analytics St. David’s
- Joseph Kunisch
  VP Quality Programs 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
- Nasser Rezaei
  Physician Solution Analyst @UTH Health
- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Zoom Link</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 26th</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>12 pm – 1 pm</td>
<td>[Telehealth Texas Zoom Link](11:30 am -1:00 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[Maternal Health Zoom Link](11:30 am -1:00 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 27th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12 pm – 1 pm</td>
<td>[Texas interoperability Zoom Link](11:30 am -1:00 pm)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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

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](https://www.himss.org/) and advance health and wellness for everyone, everywhere.
  - **Join our virtual march:** Participate in our [virtual march](https://www.himss.org/) to support maternal health, telehealth, patient identity and data modernization.
  - **Support workforce diversity:** Contribute to the [HIMSS Foundation](https://www.himss.org/) 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](https://www.himss.org/) 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, 2021**: Global Health Equity Week aka HIT Week
- **February 7th - 8th, 2022**: Texas Health Advocacy Day - in Austin

Sincerely,

*Your Texas HIMSS Advocacy Committee*