



Joint Commission on Technology and Science

September 20, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

House Room 1, The Capitol

<http://dls.virginia.gov/commissions/jcots/jcots.htm>

The Joint Commission on Technology and Science (the Joint Commission) met in Richmond with Delegate C.E. Cliff Hayes, Jr., chair, presiding.¹ The meeting began with introductions and opening remarks followed by presentations and discussion. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [Joint Commission's meetings webpage](#).

Presentation: Use of Technology to Address Health Disparities

Dr. James Aylor and Dr. Rebecca Dillingham, Virginia Academy of Science Engineering and Medicine (VASEM)

Jen Thompson and Ron Tinsley, Conduent

The Joint Commission members heard a presentation from VASEM on how in-health technology can be utilized to reduce health disparities across the Commonwealth. Dr. Dillingham focused her presentation on those diagnosed with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and the PositiveLinks/PlusLiving/PL Cares digital health platform. This mobile health (mHealth) platform, according to Dr. Dillingham, supports engagement in care and achievement of care goals. Three potential strategies Dr. Dillingham provided to extend mHealth is to increase access to smartphones, implement standards of usability and interoperability, and incentivize use of evidence-based digital therapeutics. Delegate Hayes asked Dr. Dillingham if the mHealth platforms presented were available to patients through public health departments. She maintained that departments such as the Virginia Health Department have provided tremendous support to make these platforms available to people of all income levels and accessible to all insurance types.

Ms. Thompson and Mr. Tinsley's presentation provided an overview of Conduent and how it supports health equity and disease tracking solutions. Conduent uses their Healthy Communities Institute (HCI) platform throughout the Commonwealth for community health improvement and collaboration. Ms. Thompson and Mr. Tinsley also provided information on Conduent's Maven Disease Surveillance and Outbreak Management System and how it provides a platform for healthcare professionals across the world to monitor, report, and understand disease outbreaks.

Data Protections for Children and the Consumer Data Protection Act Update

Staff Counsel

Staff counsel provided the Joint Commission members with an update on the data protections for children study and provided a summary of a discussion with stakeholders and interested parties

¹ **Members Present:** Delegate C.E. Cliff Hayes, Jr. (chair), Senator John A. Cosgrove, Jr. (vice-chair), Senator Adam P. Ebbin, Senator Barbara A. Favola, Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi, Senator David W. Marsden, Delegate Mike A. Cherry, Delegate A.C. Cordoza, Delegate Michael J. Webert

Members Absent: Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn, Delegate Suhas Subramanyam, Delegate Anne Ferrell Tata

hosted by staff on Wednesday, September 13, 2023. After staff counsel's update, the members discussed the issue. Senator Barbara A. Favola began the discussion by asserting that, during the discussion, some participants mentioned tools that are available for parents to utilize to learn about children internet safety. They believed that mandates could be difficult to implement and there was consensus that the best way to move forward would be to address the topic with young people through education in an age appropriate manner. Delegate Hayes followed up with a discussion of the current Virginia Consumer Data Protection Act (VCDPA), stating that anyone of any age can ask that their information not be sold nor distributed by contacting the office of the Attorney General of Virginia. Members directed staff to reach out to the Attorney General's office and Virginia Parent Teacher Association, to request a representative come speak, or provide an update, at the Joint Commission's next meeting.

Public Comment

- Ms. Amy Bos (Director of State and Federal Affairs, Net Choice) believed that legislation on this matter would put teens at risk of identity theft and fraud due to businesses having to collect more data from individuals. She provided information that California has an Age Appropriate Design Code which supports social media literacy in schools.
- Margaret Durkin (TechNet) had concerns about legislation due to VCDPA going in to effect this year. She stated that she would like to see its effects before making any changes or creating new legislation. Ms. Durkin urged the Joint Commission to continue to study the issue.
- Andrew Kingman (State Privacy and Security Coalition) submitted written comments echoing Delegate Hayes' sentiments that anyone in the Commonwealth has the right to opt out of the collection or distribution of their information.

Best Practices for Addressing Ransomware Study Update

Staff Counsel

The Joint Commission members received an update from staff counsel on the ransomware study and a summary of the discussion with interested parties hosted on Monday, September 18, 2023. Interested parties and experts discussed general best practices and prohibitions on payments of ransom demands. The Joint Commission discussed what protections other states have to address ransomware attacks, with North Carolina and Florida having a prohibition on payments of ransomware demands. The interest group made two recommendations: (i) work with federal resources and existing state programs and resources; (ii) facilitate collaboration among localities to facilitate and bolster one another.

Next Meeting

The Joint Commission's next meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.



For more information, see the [*Joint Commission's website*](#) or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

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