



Office of National Coordinator Names Permanent Directors

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology named four permanent Directors today. The Directors are Karen Bell, Office of Health IT Adoption, Kelly Cronin, Office of Programs and Coordination, Jodi Daniel, Office of Policy and Research, and John Loonsk, Office of Interoperability and Standards.

Robert Wah, MD, CAPT, MC, USN continues to serve as the acting Deputy National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. Dana Haza will serve as the Acting Executive Director of the American Health Information Community.

Karen M. Bell, M.D., M.M.S.

Director, Office of Health IT Adoption

Dr. Bell is a board certified internist with extensive experience in office practice, public health, academic medicine, physician support, and the commercial health insurance sector. She joined the Federal Government in October, 2004 after developing multiple successful payer contracting models which provided financial support for the adoption of clinical health information technologies in the delivery system. Before joining Dr. David Brailer's team in the Office of the Secretary, her work with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services focused on supporting Health Information Technology adoption through contracts with the Quality Improvement Organizations in every state. A previous position with Partners Health Care in Boston provided the opportunity to work with a number of the physician groups affiliated with Massachusetts General and Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Kelly Cronin

Director, Office of Programs and Coordination

Kelly Cronin has returned to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. She was senior advisor to the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Before CMS, she led initiatives to incentivize electronic health record adoption in the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. She also served as the Executive Director of the Council for the Application of Health Information Technology in the Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Cronin directed patient safety initiatives at the Food and Drug Administration and coordinated the drafting of the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act while working for the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee. Her work experience includes health policy analysis, health services

research, and clinical trial coordination, on a national and international level, for various organizations in the private sector. She is a faculty member in the Department of Health Policy at George Washington University and a doctoral candidate in the School of Public Health and Health Services

Jodi G. Daniel, J.D., M.P.H.

Director, Office of Policy and Research

Ms. Daniel developed an expertise in legal issues and HHS's strategies regarding health information technology, prior to assuming this position with ONC, as the Senior Counsel for Health Information Technology in the Office of the General Counsel of HHS. She was responsible for coordinating all legal advice regarding health information technology for HHS, and was the lead attorney for ONC. Ms. Daniel worked closely with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the development of the e-prescribing standards regulations and the proposed Stark and anti-kickback rules regarding e-prescribing and electronic health records. Ms. Daniel founded and chaired the health information technology practice group within HHS and founded the interagency working group on antitrust and health information technology.

John W. Loonsk, M.D.

Director, Office of Interoperability and Standards

Prior to coming to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Dr. Loonsk was associate Director for Informatics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In that capacity he was instrumental in architecting the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS), leading the creation of the Public Health Information Network, initiating the BioSense program, and advancing the field of Public Health Informatics at the CDC and nationally. Dr. Loonsk received his medical training at the State University of New York at Buffalo after graduating from the Johns Hopkins University. Through advanced degree work, research and administration he has pursued a medical career that balanced medicine and information technology.