



Greater Houston

**HEALTHCONNECT**

## **Chief Executive Officer**

Leadership Profile

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**WittKieffer**

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## The Opportunity

Greater Houston Healthconnect (GHH), an innovative health information exchange (HIE), is looking for their next Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This is an exciting opportunity to serve and provide overall executive leadership and management of the not-for-profit regional health information exchange serving Southeast Texas. This region includes 115 counties and parishes, 161 hospitals, 17 million people, and 20,700 physicians. GHH is the region's community health information exchange.

The CEO will report to the Board of Directors and provide strategic leadership and daily management over the organization's operations, policy development, and programs. The CEO will lead the development and execution of short-term organizational objectives, while also developing the long-term strategy. This role will be highly visible in the local, regional, and state health care industry, as well as the federal level, as the CEO will serve as the main spokesperson for the GHH and the primary liaison with stakeholders in the region. The CEO will play a critical role in growing the organization and implementing its strategic and operational plans impacting its future direction.

The CEO will identify and pursue opportunities for expansion and growth of the HIE, considering new markets, partnerships, and revenue streams and foster and maintain strong relationships with healthcare providers, payers, government agencies, academia, and other stakeholders to promote participation and engagement in the HIE. The role will oversee the day-to-day operations of the HIE, ensuring reliable and secure exchange of health information while maintaining compliance with relevant regulations and privacy requirements.

The qualified candidate will be a visionary and strategic leader with business experience and strong leadership skills. He or she should have demonstrated experience working with leadership and senior executives in the health care industry, state administration, foundations, broad constituencies, and other key stakeholders. It is essential to have an understanding of HIE's and health IT and the intersection between technology and health care. Relocation to the Houston area is required.

## Organization Overview

Greater Houston Healthconnect is the region's health information exchange (HIE). Healthconnect facilitates clinical integration across the healthcare ecosystem by connecting disparate electronic health record systems across the region's hospitals, health systems, integrated delivery networks, community clinics, physician office practices, and service providers. This integration of health information advances the delivery of healthcare services by enhancing patient safety, improving quality, saving time, reducing costs, and enhancing efficiencies.

As a nonprofit, tax exempt, 501(c)(3) organization, Healthconnect serves the fourth largest and fastest-growing metropolitan region in the U.S., with the most socially, economically, and racially diverse populations in the nation. Healthconnect is the largest and fastest growing HIE in the South, with a service area covering 75 Texas counties and 40 Louisiana parishes. Healthconnect leads interoperability in Texas with robust interfaces to hundreds of hospitals and thousands of ambulatory providers. The organization serves roughly 17 million citizens and over half the population of Texas.

Healthconnect is THE digital data hub for the region, where healthcare organizations can securely share patient health information in real-time. By facilitating the exchange of electronic health records and other clinical data, Healthconnect enables healthcare providers to have a comprehensive view of a patient's medical history, diagnoses, medications, allergies, and other relevant information at the point of care. Key features and functions of Greater Houston Healthconnect include:

**Health Information Exchange:** Healthconnect enables the secure exchange of patient health information among participating healthcare organizations. This allows healthcare providers to access essential patient data, regardless of where the patient received care, facilitating more informed decision-making.

**Clinical Data Repository:** Healthconnect maintains a centralized repository of patient health information aggregated from various sources. This repository acts as a comprehensive and longitudinal record of a patient's medical history, making it easier for providers to access and review relevant information when delivering care.

**Care Coordination and Transitions:** Healthconnect enhances care coordination by facilitating the exchange of information during care transitions, such as hospital admissions, discharges, and referrals. This improves the continuity of care and reduces the likelihood of medical errors or duplicate tests.

**Interoperability and Standards:** Healthconnect follows industry standards and protocols to ensure the seamless exchange of health information between different EHR systems. It promotes interoperability, allowing healthcare providers to connect and share data even if they use different electronic medical record platforms.

**Patient Consent and Privacy:** Healthconnect prioritizes patient privacy and ensures compliance with relevant regulations, such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Patients have control over their health information and can provide consent for its sharing among participating healthcare organizations.

**Population Health Management:** Healthconnect supports population health initiatives by providing aggregated and de-identified health data to public health agencies, research institutions, and other stakeholders. This data can help identify trends, support disease surveillance, and inform public health interventions.

Healthconnect's vision is to serve as digital health integrator, coordinating care for the community, improving overall population health, enhancing health and wellness initiatives, reducing healthcare costs, and advancing opportunities for long-term research and disease prevention.

## Position Summary

The CEO of Greater Houston Healthconnect is expected to provide visionary leadership and strategic direction to ensure the success of the organization. The CEO will oversee the operations, partnerships, and growth of the health information exchange (HIE), fostering collaboration with healthcare providers, payers, vendors, government agencies, and other key stakeholders. The CEO implements the HIE's mission, goals, and objectives, ensuring the secure and efficient exchange of health information to improve patient outcomes and healthcare delivery.

## Reporting Relationships

Reporting to the Board of Directors

## Responsibilities

### Strategic Leadership

- Develop and execute the overall strategic plan for the HIE, aligning it with industry trends, regulatory requirements, and the needs of stakeholders
- Provide visionary leadership to drive innovation and continuous improvement in health information exchange technologies and services
- Identify and pursue opportunities for expansion and growth of the HIE, considering new markets, partnerships, and revenue streams

### Stakeholder Collaboration

- Foster and maintain strong relationships with healthcare providers, payers, government agencies, and other stakeholders to promote participation and engagement in the HIE
- Collaborate with stakeholders to understand their needs and ensure the HIE's services meet their expectations
- Act as a spokesperson and advocate for the HIE, representing it in public forums, conferences, and industry events

### Operations Management

- Oversee the day-to-day operations of the HIE, ensuring reliable and secure exchange of health information while maintaining compliance with relevant regulations and privacy requirements
- Develop and implement policies, procedures, and protocols to govern data exchange, data integrity, security, and confidentiality

- Monitor and assess the performance of the HIE, establishing metrics and benchmarks to measure its effectiveness and efficiency

### **Financial Management**

- Develop and manage the HIE's budget, ensuring fiscal responsibility and sustainability
- Identify and pursue funding opportunities, such as grants or partnerships, to support the HIE's initiatives and growth
- Monitor financial performance, identify areas for improvement, and implement strategies to optimize revenue generation and growth

### **Governance and Compliance**

- Establish and maintain effective governance structures and processes, including the Board of Directors and relevant committees
- Ensure compliance with legal, regulatory, and industry standards related to health information exchange
- Monitor and mitigate risks associated with data security, privacy breaches, and other potential threats

## Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives have been identified as priorities for this position:

- Become fully integrated into the leadership team. Be perceived as a solid team player who has credibility, integrity and contributes broadly as an executive leader operating with the highest ethical standards of healthcare and healthcare IT
- Work with GHH's Executive Committee and Board to continue to drive sustainability and bring value to its customers
- Develop and implement a strategic plan for GHH to facilitate growth and development over the next five years
- Ensure provider and key constituent communities' participation in GHH via a robust education and outreach program
- Continue to bring on new members including other health systems, businesses, physicians, clinics, laboratories, ambulatory and ER centers, and payors
- Work with the vendors to enable optimum support of implemented services, along with managing customer expectations and requirements
- Facilitate the identification and management of future value-add services enhancements leveraging the board, stakeholders, and other constituent communities



## Candidate Qualifications

### Education/Certification

- An undergraduate degree is required. An advanced degree in business administration, public health, health IT, health administration, medicine, or other field of study is preferred

### Knowledge and Work Experience

- A minimum of 10+ years of senior leadership experience, preferably within the healthcare industry or health information technology sector
- In-depth knowledge of health information exchange principles, interoperability standards, and relevant regulations
- Demonstrated ability to develop and execute strategic plans, drive organizational growth, and foster stakeholder relationships
- Strong financial acumen, including experience managing budgets and securing funding from diverse sources
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage and influence stakeholders at all levels
- Experience with technology implementation, data management, and information security practices
- A track record of successful collaboration with diverse stakeholders to achieve common goals

### Leadership Skills and Competencies

- Visionary and strategic leader with business experience and strong leadership skills who operates with the highest ethical standards
- Experienced public speaker and skilled listener comfortable interacting with diverse stakeholders and with national policy and industry leaders
- Familiarity with Houston's health care market, Texas Medical Center, and health information exchange initiatives

- Champion for electronic health information sharing and the use of technology for quality healthcare and lower costs
- People management skills, team builder, and team player
- Political acumen
- A strong leader who thinks strategically with the ability to execute operationally
- Comfortable in a “hands-on” role
- Organizational, administrative, and financial management skills
- An innovative and creative thinker with an open mind
- A strong facilitator who will be confident and engaging with a Board of Directors
- A strong background in technology, preferably health information technology
- Consensus builder with high integrity, trust, and reliability

## The Community

### Houston, Texas



The fourth-largest city in the United States, Houston is home to the country's most diverse population, having no ethnic or racial majority, and welcoming people from across the nation and the world. Ranking third in the number of foreign consulates it houses, Houston is truly an international and cosmopolitan city. More than 90 languages are spoken in the Houston area. As the energy capital of the world, Houston serves as headquarters to 22 Fortune 500 companies; is home to Texas Medical

Center (TMC), the world's largest medical facility; and NASA. One of only five American cities with resident professional companies in all four major performing arts: ballet, opera, theater and symphony, Houston boasts world-class culture and entertainment – from art museums to athletics, including professional teams in football, baseball, basketball and soccer. The New York Times dubbed Houston, "possibly the most interesting city in America for young artists".

The Houston area contains more than 55,000 acres of parks, public green space and open water; the nearby Kemah Boardwalk and the city of Galveston on the Gulf Coast, offer outdoor and water recreation.

## Procedure for Candidacy

Inquiries, nominations and applications are invited. Candidates should provide a resume or curriculum vitae and a letter of application. Please direct all application materials to Hillary Ross or Scott Dethloff via the WittKieffer Candidate Portal [here](#). Inquiries and nominations may also be directed to the consultants through the portal.

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