



**Vicki Hohner is a Subject Matter Expert in HIPAA legislation and its impacts on government agencies. She has developed and conducted HIPAA workshops and training programs, and she is a frequent speaker on HIPAA for public and private sector groups and at national events. She has been a key Subject Matter Expert on FOX HIPAA projects for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Office for Civil Rights.**

## **OVERVIEW**

Ms. Hohner is a Senior Consultant for FOX Systems, Inc. Her 14 years of public health data and systems experience includes extensive involvement with the impacts of HIPAA legislation on public agencies. She has conducted HIPAA training for state and local governments and other organizations and presents on HIPAA regulations to provider, local government, tribal government, and other groups. She has managed HIPAA assessment, coordination, and implementation projects, organized projects, created project plans, conducted assessments, and created HIPAA tools and presentations. She has been active in privacy and confidentiality for over 12 years and has been involved in policy development and national privacy efforts. Prior to joining FOX, Ms. Hohner was the HIPAA Project Manager for the Washington State Department of Health, where she managed HIPAA assessment and implementation and provided technical assistance to state agencies and local government. Ms. Hohner speaks at national events on HIPAA and HIPAA privacy, uses of public health data, the value of public health data standards, and creation and use of linked databases.

## **KEY QUALIFICATIONS**

- Privacy Subject Matter Expert on HIPAA, electronic privacy, data release, and general privacy
- Public sector, public health, and behavioral health (substance abuse, mental health, corrections) HIPAA experience
- Speaker and presenter on HIPAA for a variety of groups: providers, state and local government, tribal government, special interest groups, and associations and speaker at national HIPAA and other events
- Experience developing, conducting and facilitating HIPAA workshops and training
- Knowledge of billing systems, data elements, and national code sets
- Extensive experience assessing privacy requirements for new applications (especially on the web) and data collection activities
- Participate in national organizations such as APHA, NAHDO, ASTHO, HL7, X12N, HIPAAGIVES, APHA, and the Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC)
- Strong connections to the federal government with CDC, AHRQ, OCR, NCHS, and CMS
- Good connections to a variety of HIPAA experts at the state and national level
- State agency privacy officer for HIPAA and other confidentiality and privacy issues

## EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY

ORGANIZATION	POSITION	DATES
FOX Systems, Inc.	Senior Consultant	04/2002 – present
Washington Department of Health, Division of Information Resource Management	HIPAA Project Manager	01/2001 – 03/2002
Washington Department of Health, Division of Epidemiology, Health Statistics, and Public Health Laboratories	Confidentiality/Privacy Coordinator	02/2000 – 01/2001
Washington Department of Health, Hospital and Patient Data	Data Products Manager	11/1989 – 02/2000
Small Business Development Center	Research Assistant	09/1987 – 11/1989
George B. Brain Education Library, Washington State University	Supervisor	02/1977 – 09/1987

## HIPAA PROJECT EXPERIENCE

### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS, HIPAA PRIVACY PROJECT

As a member of the FOX team of consultants serving on this project, wrote privacy technical assistance documents for OCR, provided content management for documents produced by legal firms, and produced consumer materials for publication.

### CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES (CMS), MEDICAID HIPAA PROVIDER OUTREACH PROJECT

As a member of the FOX team of consultants serving on this project, provided content for HIPAA Provider Outreach materials (articles, newsletters, training materials), and served as a speaker for various presentations at Provider Outreach workshops in Tacoma, Las Vegas, and Hawaii.

### CMS, MEDICAID HIPAA COMPLIANT CONCEPT MODEL (MHCCM) PROJECT

As a member of the FOX team of consultants serving on this project, provided privacy related content for the Medicaid HIPAA Compliant Concept Model.

### CMS AND OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS, MEDICAID HIPAA PROJECT

As a member of the FOX team of consultants serving on this project, provided responses to questions submitted to both CMS and OCR on a variety of HIPAA-related topics.

### LOS ANGELES COUNTY, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Member of the FOX team working on a HIPAA Transactions, Code Sets and Identifier assessment, gap analysis, and compliance planning for Los Angeles County DHS, the county public health agency serving over 1.5 million clients and an annual budget of over \$5 billion. This project encompassed the County hospitals and health centers, Public Health programs, and the Office of Managed Care. Primarily responsible for determining covered entity status, remediation issues, and subject matter expertise related to public health.

### LOS ANGELES COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

Provided privacy subject matter expertise for a full HIPAA assessment by FOX consultants including Transaction, Code Sets, and Identifiers; Privacy; and Security for a select group of

mental health providers associated with Los Angeles County. Responsible for privacy assessment, gap analysis, and remediation planning.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Assigned as business lead and provided privacy subject matter expertise for a full HIPAA assessment by a FOX team including Transaction, Code Sets, and Identifiers; Privacy; and Security for this state agency. Responsible for privacy assessment, gap analysis, and remediation planning. Also privacy subject matter expert for HIPAA implementation.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Assigned to project team to write HIPAA privacy and security policies and procedures; provide training; and assist with data gathering and documentation of protected health information, its location and characteristics.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Assigned to project team to assess the state's Short-Doyle system for mental health and substance abuse program provider payment and determine gaps relative to HIPAA compliance. Conduct background research on the documented and contractual responsibilities of the three departments involved in operating, maintaining, and using the system.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, CALIFORNIA YOUTH AUTHORITY

Provided privacy subject matter expertise for a HIPAA assessment by a FOX team including Transaction, Code Sets, and Privacy for this state agency. Responsible for privacy assessment, gap analysis, and remediation planning.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Assigned as business lead on several sub-projects in a comprehensive County HIPAA assessment process, including County covered entity and general privacy assessment and analysis, Department of Health and Human Services covered entity and general privacy assessment and analysis, and HIPAA training.

HAWAII DIVISION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

Project Lead for a FOX project to provide HIPAA technical assistance and training under a federal subcontract to the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT/SAMHSA). This project addresses HIPAA issues in transactions, privacy, security, and training. Organize technical assistance agendas and presenters; provide subject matter expertise in general HIPAA, privacy, training development, and billing systems issues. Provide training to the division and its providers; assist in moving division towards HIPAA compliance.

NEVADA BUREAU OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

Project Lead for a FOX project to provide HIPAA technical assistance and training under a federal subcontract to the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT/SAMHSA). This project addresses HIPAA issues in transactions, privacy, security, and training. Organized technical assistance agendas and presenter; provided subject matter expertise in general HIPAA, privacy, training development, and billing systems issues.

BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

Provided subject matter expertise in privacy for a full HIPAA assessment by FOX consultants including Transaction, Code Sets, and Identifiers; Privacy; and Security. Primarily responsible for privacy assessment, gap analysis, and remediation planning.

HENRICO COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Primarily responsible for assisting with covered entity status determinations for a full HIPAA assessment by FOX consultants including Transaction, Code Sets, and Identifiers; Privacy; and Security.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA CITY/COUNTY

Provide consultation and subject matter expertise as needed on overall HIPAA with particular emphasis on privacy.

STATE OF TENNESSEE, TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Primarily responsible for assisting with covered entity status determinations for a full HIPAA assessment by FOX consultants including Transaction, Code Sets, and Identifiers; Privacy; and Security.

MOLINA HEALTH CARE, HIPAA PRIVACY PROJECT

Conducted a Privacy training and kickoff workshop for Molina, and technical assistance on a variety of HIPAA issues on an as-needed basis.

STATE OF WASHINGTON, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DIVISION OF INFORMATION RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

**HIPAA Project Manager**

- Officially designated as project manager in 2001; involved in HIPAA since 1997.
- Manage HIPAA assessment, coordination and implementation for the agency, with a particular emphasis on privacy. Hire, manage, and provide technical assistance to consultants; work with staff in all parts of the agency in assessing legal and business compliance needs. Work with consultants and others to organize the project, create project plans, write assessment reports and create HIPAA work documents and presentations.
- Conduct HIPAA and privacy awareness and training. Represent the agency and the state re HIPAA across state and local government and with other stakeholders; speaker and presenter on HIPAA for provider, local government, tribal government, and special interest groups; develop and conduct local government trainings and build statewide networks on HIPAA.
- Facilitate interagency workgroups on HIPAA: general workgroup to respond to HIPAA draft regulations, share information across agencies, provide an educational forum, and assist sharing expertise and solutions across agencies. Operate a statewide email information list on HIPAA.
- Act as the agency privacy official. Assist in assessing privacy requirements for new applications (especially on the web) and data collection activities, write agency, division, and program level privacy policy and procedure, conduct agency-wide privacy training, respond to external privacy questions, concerns, and complaints, assist with interpreting state laws re privacy, assist with creating unidentified data bases and de-identification of linked databases. Also work with data release issues, primarily with electronic data, and public disclosure activities and policies within the agency.

STATE OF WASHINGTON, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, HEALTH STATISTICS, AND PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES, OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

**Confidentiality/Privacy Coordinator**

- Head agency efforts on confidentiality and privacy of health information; evaluate and draft response to state and national legislation, develop agency policies and procedures on confidentiality, conduct agency trainings.
- Agency content expert on the Administrative Simplification provisions of HIPAA. Coordinate comment, monitor regulatory and legislative activity, monitor media and summarize and distribute findings, manage contracts, participate on agency steering committees, develop policies, procedures, and decision packages, and conduct internal and external presentations on HIPAA to various constituent groups.

STATE OF WASHINGTON, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, HOSPITAL AND PATIENT DATA, OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

**Data Products Manager**

- Focus on confidentiality and privacy of health information; evaluate and draft response to state and national legislation, develop agency policies and procedures on confidentiality, conduct agency trainings. Develop agency policies on data release and public disclosure, craft standard agreements. Negotiate and manage data-sharing agreements and contracts.
- Manage requests for health care data and information; coordinate customer support functions; liaison between clients and information services staff; respond to legislative requests for data and analysis on current issues.
- Staff new data collection and data system efforts; manage system development for an online hospital discharge query system. Develop new data products such as linked data bases, reports and formats; prioritize, assign and schedule development activities; assure product quality.
- Direct customer relations and product marketing; produce and coordinate publication and distribution of educational and promotional materials such as a consumer's guide to hospital charges.
- Act as an expert on hospitalization data and linked data at conferences and workgroups at the local, state, and national level.
- Coordinate seminars, workshops, and conferences; former co-chair of statewide Joint Conference on Health; chair of prior statewide data conferences.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER, PULLMAN, WASHINGTON

**Research Assistant**

Provided primary and secondary research services for over 200 small businesses; wrote surveys, analyzed data; researched, wrote and edited booklets, reports, bibliographies; wrote state SBDC handbook on rural economic development; set up resource library.

GEORGE B. BRAIN EDUCATION LIBRARY, WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY, PULLMAN WASHINGTON

**Supervisor**

- Managed daily operations of 40,000+-volume library. Supervised over 15 employees; recruit, hire, train, evaluate, schedule and promote staff. Restructured duties and staffing under administrative reorganizations; successfully maintained services and operations during budget cuts of over 50%.

- Implemented online circulation/information access system; planned remodeling projects and space utilization.

#### **EDUCATION**

- MBA, Marketing and Finance, 1988, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington
- B.A. History, 1985, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington
- B.A. Anthropology, 1976, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington
- Graduated magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi

#### **PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- With R. Lagoe, "Health Care Data and Their Sources", Journal of Nursing Care Quality, November 1999
- With R. Lagoe, "A Community Based Study of Hospital Readmissions and Related Utilization", New York Hospital Executive Council, 1998.
- With R. Armstrong, "A Health Care History Database: Tracking Hospitalizations from Birth to Death", Department of Health, State of Washington, Olympia, 1992. (Unpublished paper)
- With K. Parrish, F. Connell, and R. Armstrong, "Linkage of Birth Certificate and Hospital Abstract Data: Bias of Unmatched Data", University of Washington, Department of Health Services, Seattle.
- With R. Armstrong, "Birth Event Records Project: Developing a Permanent Linked Database", Department of Health, State of Washington, Olympia, 1991.
- "A Handbook for Rural Economic Development", Small Business Development Center, Washington State University, Pullman, 1988.

#### **PROFESSIONAL/OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- Member, HL7, Public Health Data Standards Consortium, American Public Health Association
- Member and Program Committee Member, National Association of Health Data Organizations
- Past Regional Vice-President, Washington State Public Health Association
- Certified fitness instructor since 1987; teach for Gold's Gym and YMCA
- Personal trainer, instructor trainer, and fitness presenter