



# HIE in Arizona: Policy Updates & Priorities

Az Rural Health Policy Forum

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**Melissa A. Kotrys, MPH**

Chief Executive Officer



# Agenda

- Health Current + CORHIO = Contexture
- Health Current Basics
- HIE Policy Priorities
- CommunityCares: Az's SDOH Referral System
- Az Healthcare Directives Registry
- Questions



**Health Current + CORHIO = Contexture**



# About Health Current

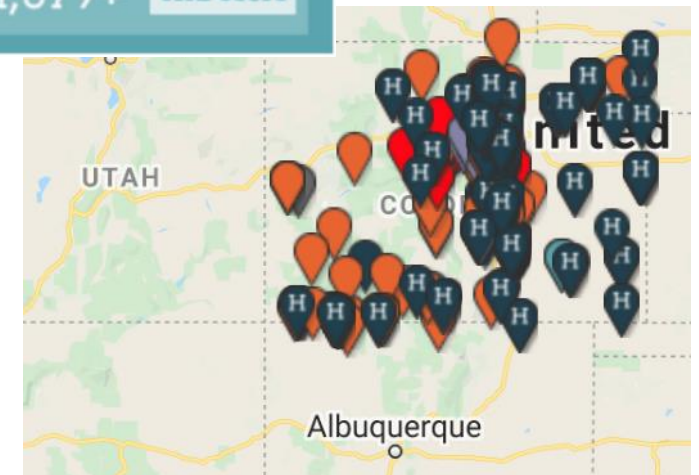


- Founded in 2007
- Arizona's Health Information Exchange (HIE), home of Arizona Healthcare Advance Directives Registry (AzHDR) and social determinants of health (SDOH) referral system
- Joined forces with Colorado-based CORHIO in 2021 to form regional organization, Contexture



# About CORHIO

- Founded in 2010
- Provides HIE and Healthcare Quality Improvement Services throughout the Front Range and rural Colorado
- Joined forces with Arizona-based Health Current in 2021 to form regional organization, Contexture





# New brand. Same commitment to you.

**contexture™**

[Our Mission](#) [Who We Are](#) [Leadership](#) [In the News](#) [CORHIO.org](#) [HealthCurrent.org](#)

## Creating connections. Improving lives.

Contexture is two visionary, innovating leaders in health information exchange (HIE): CORHIO and Health Current. Together we advance individual and community health and wellness through the delivery of actionable information and analysis.

## Our Mission

Advancing individual and community health and wellness through the delivery of actionable information and analysis.

# Contexture Merger

## Why merge?

- The HIE landscape is changing
- Similar geographies and cultures
- Two large HIEs coming together means leveraging different skillsets, knowledge and processes; economies of scale and greater efficiencies
- Larger data set at a regional level supports more opportunities to improve population health
- Better positions us to compete at a national level and meet federal policy changes
  
- In essence...we are #BetterTogether!

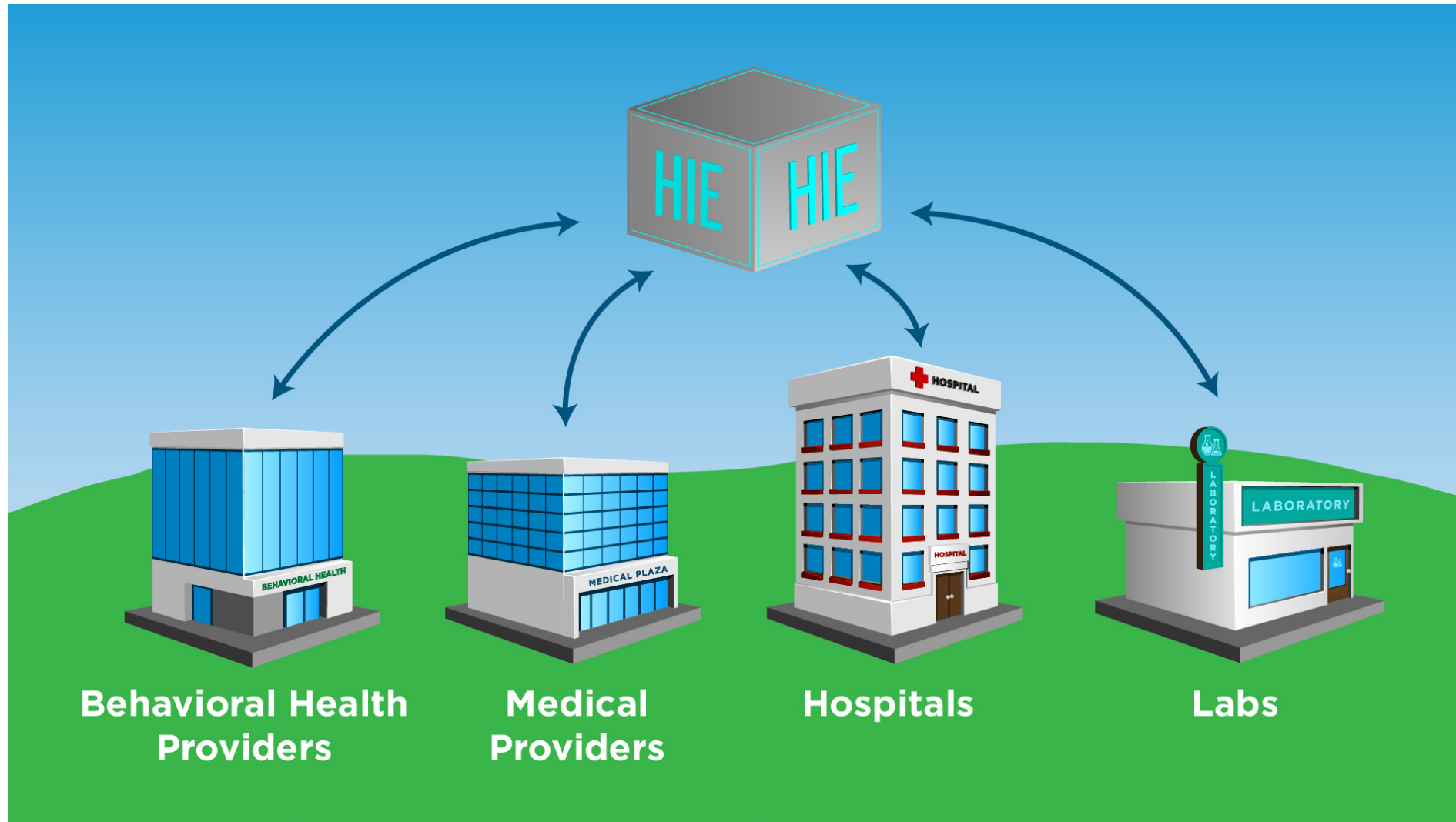






# Health Current Basics

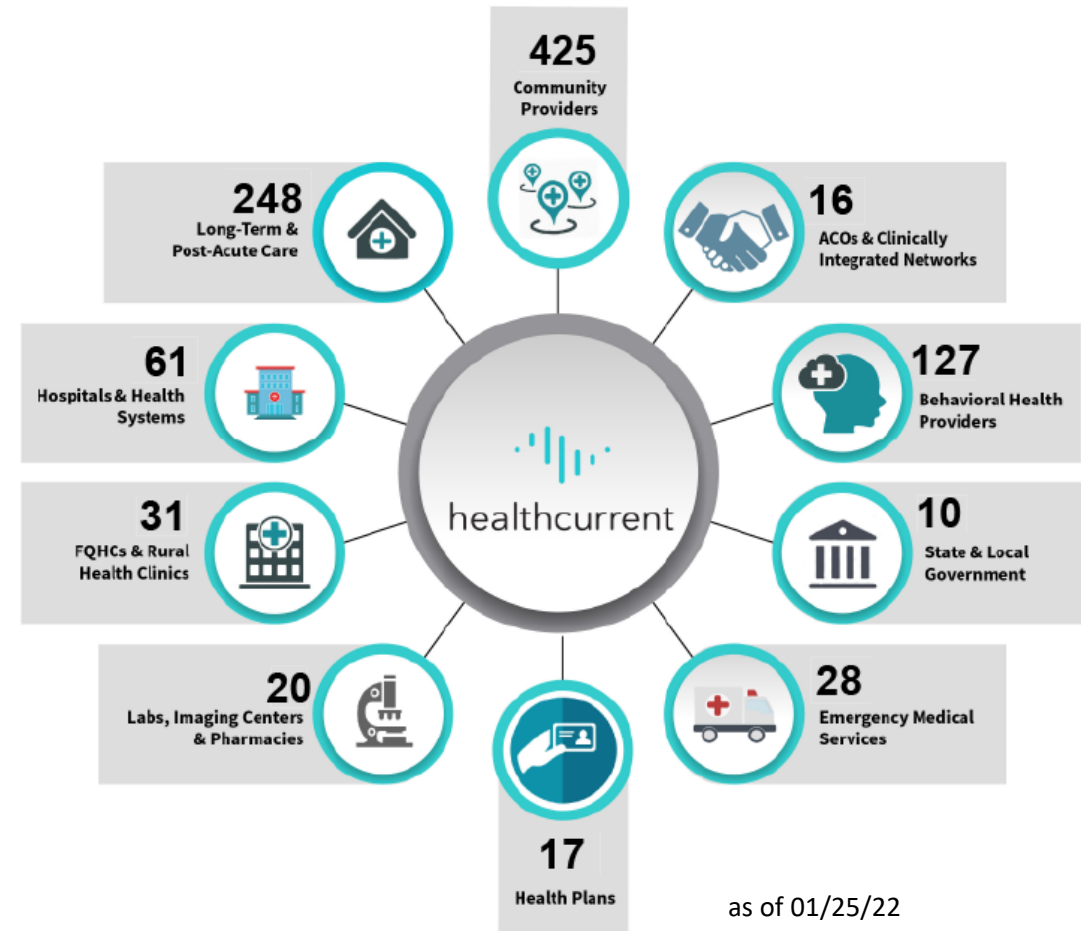
# Health Information Exchange





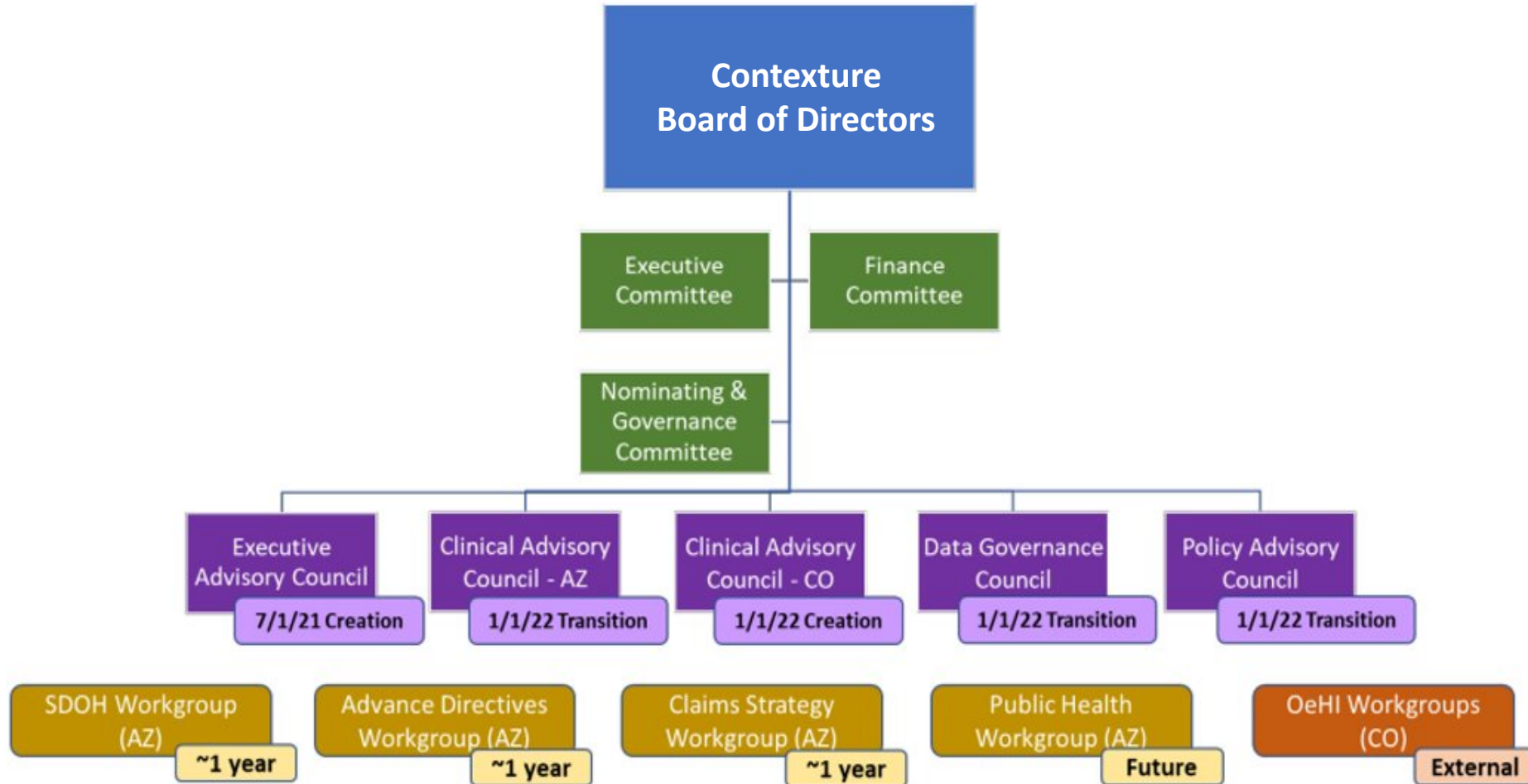
# Who is Participating with Health Current?

- Over **980 HIE Participants** and growing
- Over **275 data sources** sending patient medical records for sharing, including 98% of all hospitals
- Data available on **14+ million** individuals





# Governance Structure





# HIE Policy Priorities



# State Legislative Priorities

- Promoting the integration of public health data into the HIEs, especially to support crisis services such as immunization data for the COVID-19 pandemic and prescription drug data for the opioid overdose epidemic responses;
- Improving rural, Tribal and Critical Access Hospital HIE connectivity;
- Expanding HIE permitted purposes to include research related work; and
- Responding to the rapidly changing patient consent, data access, and privacy rights environment.



# Arizona Priorities

- Amend key Arizona public health statutes to enable Health Current to redisclose communicable disease related information and child immunization data to HIE Participants without an enhanced surveillance advisory being in effect.
- Amend A.R.S. 36-3805(C) to remove restrictions on using HIE data to support research.
- Work with Arizona's hospital associations and key stakeholders to advance and incentivize data reporting from certain key senders to the HIE (e.g., clinical laboratories, pharmacies, LTPACs)
- Advance additional statutory amendments to A.R.S. 36-3291 et. seq., as needed, to improve utility of the Arizona Health Directives Registry operated by Health Current



# Colorado Priorities

- Monitor any attempts to codify the authority of the Office of eHealth Innovation and ensure any statutory authority is positive for health information exchanges / Contexture.
- Understand the impact of the Colorado Privacy Act on Contexture's operations and push for legislative changes (up to and including an exemption for Contexture) in FY2022 if required; cultivate allies for 2023 legislative session.
- Support legislative efforts to increase provider enrollment in, compliance with, and use of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.
- Monitor and support legislative efforts to broaden CDPHE's authority to share public health data, including immunization information system (IIS) data, with HIEs for distribution to clinical participants.





# Federal Priorities

- Engage directly and via our trade organization, Civitas Networks for Health (formerly SHIEC), on key issues related to HIE programmatic funding and beyond
- Advance legislation that would create new funding opportunities for a “public health data utility” program and to secure related supportive appropriations report language and to facilitate the flow of information between public health and clinical health IT systems



# Current Az Bills

- **HB 2100**  
Public health statutory changes to allow communicable disease and immunization data that is shared by AzDHS to HIE to be shared with HIE participants in accordance with federal (HIPAA) and state laws. Mirrors SB 1167 and has emergency clause.
- **HB 2155**  
Adjustments to the HIO statute to allow for the transfer of HIE data for research, in alignment with HIPAA and other federal laws and regulations.
- **SB 1190**  
Adjustments to healthcare directives registry to allow surrogate access, as designated by individual.
- **SB 1167**  
Public health statutory changes to allow communicable disease and immunization data that is shared by AzDHS to HIE to be shared with HIE participants in accordance with federal (HIPAA) and state laws. Mirrors HB 2100 and has emergency clause.



# Other Policy Considerations

- Continued expansion of AHCCCS Differential Adjusted Payment (DAP) incentive program
  - CYE 2023 DAP Preliminary Public Notice posted on January 28, 2022
  - [DAP Preliminary Notice - CYE 23-Final for Posting \(azahcccs.gov\)](https://www.azahcccs.gov/InformationandSupport/News/Details.aspx?ID=100)
- Addressing other known data gaps
  - Long term post acute care
  - Lab data – particularly commercial labs other than Sonora Quest
  - Medication fill history



# CommunityCares: Az's SDOH Referral System



# AHCCCS Whole Person Care

- Moving from medically-focused concepts of health to whole person health & wellness
- Focus Areas
  - Housing
  - Social Isolation
  - Employment
  - Food
  - Non-Emergency Transportation
  - SDOH Closed Loop Referral System (CLRS)

# CommunityCares





# SDOH Closed Loop Referral System

- Partnership between AHCCCS and Health Current to procure a technology vendor to facilitate and track referrals by healthcare providers to community organizations addressing SDOH
- System capabilities:
  - Facilitates screening for social risk factors
  - Seamlessly refers individuals to highly matched community resources
  - Serves as a closed loop referral platform for social service fulfillment

# CommunityCares

- Connecting our communities.
- Improving health outcomes with a whole-person care mindset.
- Data-driven approach.

**Now in general  
launch phase –  
get signed up  
TODAY!**







# What is CommunityCares?

- CommunityCares is a resource database that organizations can adopt and access to find resources for their members/patients/clients
- CommunityCares is a referral management tool used to send and receive referrals, provide referral feedback, and “close the loop”
- CommunityCares contains social needs screening tools that can identify SDOH needs and maps those needs to available services in the community
- CommunityCares is free of cost to all who want to adopt it
- CommunityCares houses over 10,000 services (and counting)

# For More Information

- Learn more about CommunityCares at: [healthcurrent.org/sdoh](https://healthcurrent.org/sdoh)
  - Videos and Demos
  - FAQs
  - Media about CommunityCares initiative





# Az Healthcare Directives Registry

## Arizona Healthcare Directives Registry (AzHDR)

- A secure platform for uploading and accessing an individual's advance directives and related documents
- Ensures the individual's wishes are known when they cannot speak for themselves
- Documents transferred from Az Secretary of State's database
- General launch began October 2, 2021
- More information?  
Contact us or visit [www.AzHDR.org](http://www.AzHDR.org)



# Trifold Brochure



**92%** of people believe it's important to discuss their end-of-life wishes. But just **32%** have actually shared their end-of-life care wishes. Source: The Conversation Project National Survey, 2015

## The Arizona Healthcare Directives Registry is here to help.

Your wishes, made secure and accessible.

The state of Arizona has entrusted Health Current—Arizona's health information exchange—to house the new Arizona Healthcare Directives Registry (AzHDR).

The AzHDR is a secure online system that provides all Arizonans with a safe place to house their advance directives—and make them accessible to loved ones and health professionals when they are needed.

Registering your advance directives is free and simple, and provides peace of mind. With your documents safely stored, you can be sure that your care preferences will be available to healthcare providers when they are needed most—ensuring your registered wishes are honored.

### Understanding advance directives.

Advance directives are documents that outline what healthcare and treatment decisions should be made if you are unable to communicate these wishes.

**In Arizona, advance directives include:**

- Health Care Power of Attorney:** Lets you choose another person, called an "agent," to make healthcare decisions if you can no longer make those decisions for yourself.
- Mental Health Care Power of Attorney:** Allows and directs your chosen agent to make decisions for you regarding behavioral health placement and treatment if you no longer have capacity to do so yourself, due to mental or physical illness.
- Living Will:** Outlines, in writing, your wishes regarding medical treatment in the event you are not able to communicate directly with your healthcare providers.
- Pre-hospital Medical Care Directive (Do Not Resuscitate or DNR):** A document signed by you and a licensed healthcare professional that informs emergency personnel not to use means to resuscitate you.

### Who should have advance directives?

Everyone over the age of 18 should complete their advance directive documents.

### I want to complete my advance directives. How do I start?

Advance care planning should start with a conversation—first with yourself, and then with your family, support individuals, health-care team, faith leader(s), and other trusted advisor(s). It is important to start early and to share your end-of-life healthcare wishes with those who care for you—and to document your preferences in advance directives forms, so your wishes can be carried out and honored.

**Learn more at: [AzHDR.org](http://AzHDR.org)**

ARIZONA Healthcare Directives Registry | healthcurrent

## Wishes Registered. Wishes Honored.

Register Your Directives: [AzHDR.org](http://AzHDR.org)

# Coming Soon! New Az Healthcare Directives Registry (AzHDR) website



ARIZONA  
**Healthcare Directives**  
Registry

[News & Events](#)

[Articles & Guides](#)

[Toolkit](#)

[Contact](#)

[Registry](#)



## *Plan Now.* **For Later.**

Making decisions about critical and end-of-life healthcare can seem daunting. Our guide to Getting Started With Advance Directives is here to help.

[Download](#)



# AzHDR Participation

- Organizations fill out an interest form.
- The AzHDR team will reach out to discuss how participation in the AzHDR will work in their organization.
- Organizations complete and sign the agreement, provide a W-9 and a registration form.
- Organizations choose their organization's AzHDR administrator. This person will manage setting up staff access, running analytics, etc.
- The AzHDR team will provide training and onboarding as well as ongoing support and materials on the AzHDR program and advance care planning.



**Wishes Registered.**  
**Wishes Honored.**



# Questions

- Melissa Kotrys  
Chief Executive Officer  
[melissa.kotrys@contexture.org](mailto:melissa.kotrys@contexture.org)

[www.contexture.org](http://www.contexture.org)

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