Oki Mek
Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer (CAIO)
U.S. Department of Health and Humans Services (HHS)

Background Summary

Oki Mek works for the U.S. Department of Health and Humans Services (HHS) as the Chief Artificial Intelligence Office (CAIO). He has been in this assignment since December 14, 2020. Prior to this role, Mr. Mek served as the Senior Advisor to HHS Chief Information Officer (CIO), and before as the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) for the HHS Division of Acquisition. During his time in the Acquisition Office, Oki worked on the HHS Accelerate Initiative focusing on optimizing and gaining insights into acquisition data. HHS Accelerate is the first authorized blockchain network in the federal government.

Role as Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer

Mr. Mek serves as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer (CAIO), the first CAIO in the federal government. The appointment came after the President signed the Executive Order 13960, the Whitehouse's commitment for the Federal Government to promote the use of trustworthy AI. In this role, Mr. Mek leads the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy for HHS, which outlines the Department's enterprise approach and focus areas intended to encourage and enable Department-wide familiarity, comfort, and fluency with AI technology and its potential (AI adoption), the application of best practices and lessons learned from piloting and implementing AI capabilities to additional domains and use cases across HHS (AI scaling), and increased speed at which HHS adopts and scales AI (AI acceleration). Mr. Mek is working on forming the HHS AI Council to establish and provide strategy-enabling support and governance. The AI Council will be responsible for leading the implementation of this strategy, and will serve as a governing body to advance and safeguard the ethical use of AI within HHS and by its external partners. The Council will accelerate the adoption and scaling of AI across HHS through enterprise guidance and principles that support AI planning, policy, governance, and ethics coordination in alignment with White House and OMB mandates.