

Health Information Exchange

Stakeholder Update Bulletin #3

January, 2011

Greetings

Happy New Year!

We are very pleased with our accomplishments so far and are excited about the prospects for Health Information Exchange in 2011.

This notice follows earlier Update Bulletins describing the latest events in the Health Information Exchange Planning and Implementation project. The next phase of activity is now coming into focus as we look to the legislature for continuing support, to promising business models, and to technical partners for viable implementation models.

The major focus during the last couple of months was, of course, the completion and approval of the Strategic and Operational Plans. At the same time, other efforts continued in sustaining the critical momentum established during last summer's workgroup progress.

1. Workgroup Activities resumes
2. NESCSO and technical architecture surveyed
3. Business Plan development continued
4. Regional Extension Center established
5. Legislative initiatives drafted and sponsored

Work Group Activity Resumes

Work group activities have resumed with added focus as the Operational Plan begins to drive our direction. While two work groups have merged, others are gaining visibility as well. The following work groups are now active or plan to be active very soon. Of particular interest is a new Consumer Voice which is still in the planning phase and considering a number of options regarding forum and approach.

- Combined Technical Infrastructure and Business Operations
- Legal and Policy
- Governance
- Finance
- Public Health
- Communications
- Planned: Consumer Voice

There is ample room on most work groups for additional participants. Please feel free to contact Elizabeth Shields (Elizabeth.Shields@dhhs.state.nh.us) for more information regarding agenda and schedules.

Strategic and Operational Plan

Late-breaking News

On December 21, 2010, the Office of Health Information Technology was notified by the ONC that New Hampshire's Strategic and Operational Plans have been formally approved. We are publishing the Plans to our web site as well as to the ONC web site. We also understand that the NH Plans are among the top plans in the country.

The major focus of our attention has been on the Plans and the Interim drafts of the document that have been issued to the active workgroups to ensure that the themes, focus and details accurately reflect their debates and discussions on their respective focus areas (Governance, Legal and Policy, Finance, Technical Infrastructure, Business Technical Operations, and Public Health).

We submitted the Plans on September 15, 2010 and received ONC comments requesting additional clarifications on October 14. We resubmitted a draft with the required information in early November followed by a final conference with ONC addressing a couple of minor points. The approved Plans reside on our Web site and are published on the ONC Web site as well. Please review for any updates. We retain the right to update the Operational Plans (through the Project Plans) as new developments suggest.

Our consulting partner, Massachusetts eHealth Collaborative, has been very busy supporting OHIT on several fronts:

- Refining the interim governance model including Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee to oversee the HIE implementation
- Drafting a consensus-based Business Plan for submission to ONC
- Gathering additional cost information to inform the business plan
- Gathering information from prospective HIE customers
- Preparing to conduct a capabilities assessment of prospective Health Information Services Providers (HISPs) including meetings with prospective HISPs to determine level of HIE maturity relative to ONC Program Information Notice (PIN) requirements, current capabilities, planned activities, and resource levels

Supporting legislation initiatives

Throughout the development of the Strategic and Operational Plans in preparation for submission to the ONC, we were working with several legislative colleagues who have participated in work groups. Some of those participants are no longer participating and

new ones have arrived as a result of the November elections. As a result, we have turned our attention to education and outreach to help the new legislative representatives and committees learn more about health information exchange and our proposed initiative to lay the foundations for an independent Health Information Organization (HIO) that will oversee the development and management of a Health Information Exchange capability.

The strategy emerging from work group discussions is to focus on proposed legislation to create a formal HIO. Upon statutory support for the HIO, we can then move forward with related legislation required to extend HIE capabilities which would include support for using the HIE to exchange public health information. As before, we remain optimistic that this strategy will yield the desired results.

New Web Site

As we have mentioned before, the new DHHS Web site promises to be a much more flexible platform for providing information, soliciting comments and staying in touch with this project. We are currently reviewing capabilities for an interactive dimension to capture stakeholder views and reactions as we move forward with the Operational Plan. We are continuing to consider additional design options to make it easy to use.

NESCSO

The New England States Consortium Systems Organization (NESCSO) continues to host several meetings and teleconferences to advance opportunities for the six New England states and New York to work together. One of the initiatives was to gather information from the New England states on HIE architecture. That is, we wanted to find out what approaches other states have taken in determining the implementation models, capabilities, and technical infrastructure and whether others can learn or borrow from those efforts. Clearly, many states are still at the starting line and have likely not reached this point in their implementation plans, so those out front represent valuable insights. We are also extending access to the architectural survey instrument to our colleagues in the southeastern states collaborative so that we can gain an even broader understanding of this process and its challenges. We will report on those results in the next update bulletin.

Communications Workgroup and Planning

The Communication Workgroup has met twice since its creation. The priority for the Communication Workgroup in January is completion of a Communication Plan. To date, the group has completed a Workgroup Charter and a press release announcing the approval of the Strategic and Operational Plans. In addition to discussing the need for a Communication Plan, the workgroup has discussed options for a logo design, the need to update our web presence, as well as the importance of supporting outreach and educational efforts relative to HIE. These tasks will need to be worked in tandem with completion of the Communication Plan in the following month.

Anyone interested in joining the Communication Workgroup is welcome attend the next meeting. Email Elizabeth.Shields@dhhs.state.nh.us for the date, time and location of the next meeting.

Naming the HIE

To make it easier for the broader stakeholder population in NH to form an image of what an Health Information Exchange is and to make it easier to remember, we are gathering ideas to give it a unique name as some other states have done. Watch this space for new developments.

We have received a couple of suggested names; however there is still time to make your suggestions. Email your HIE name suggestions to NH-HealthIT@dhhs.state.nh.us before January 31st. We will be unveiling the new name in February.

Regional Extension Center

Regional Extension Centers (RECs) will offer technical assistance, guidance, and information to support and accelerate health care providers' efforts to become meaningful users of Electronic Health Records (EHRs) and are mandated under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Since New Hampshire was recently identified as one of the few remaining areas without coverage through a REC our consulting partner, MAeHC, applied for and was granted authority and funding to be REC for NH and activity has already begun.

| In general, the NH REC will:

- Leverage hospital EHR strategies and programs
- Integrate EHR and HIE strategies and programs
- Tailor programs to provide EHR and HIE capacity to level-set and accelerate Hospital and EP MU Stage 1 achievement

They will do this through:

- Education and outreach
- Vendor selection and group purchasing
- Implementation and project management
- Practice and workflow redesign including:
 - Sharing of best practices from the National Learning Consortium
 - Sharing of privacy and security best practices
 - Functional interoperability and health information exchange
 - Progress towards meaningful use
- Local workforce support

Next Steps

- Publish the approved Strategic and Operational Plans on DHHS and ONC web sites
- Continue with all work group meetings
- Establish a Consumer Voice forum
- Conduct Outreach and Education events
- Draft and Publish RFIs regarding technology partners and options
- Continue to update the HIE web site
- Adjust legislative plans as appropriate
- Continue NESCISO efforts – architecture, issues of mutual interest
- Continue multi-path HIO strategy and planning
- Address Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Board as successor to HIE Steering Committee
- Continue coordination with CMS
- Continue coordinating with Regional Extension Center activities
- Update HIE Project Plan - ongoing