

**New Hampshire
Health Information Exchange Planning and Implementation Project**

**Status Update
May 22, 2010**

Status Update: *A summary of the project's progress and future plans.*

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Federal Funding

1. State approval to accept and expend of a portion of the Federal State HIE Cooperative Agreement Program Award (through June 30, 2011) was obtained in late March 2010.
2. New requirements disclosed with the Federal Award Notice requires a modified and accelerated approach to develop HIE Strategic and Operational Plans for New Hampshire. This approach is different than the approach described in the New Hampshire Health Information Exchange Planning and Implementation (HIEPI) Project Overview and shared during the Project Kickoff last November. The modified approach is outlined in the **HIE Planning Phase** section below.

Consulting Partner

1. The Consulting Partner plays a key role in the development of New Hampshire's HIE Strategic and Operational Plans. Responsibilities of the Consulting Partner and our approach to select one were described in the prior Project Status Update of March 12, 2010.
2. A firm was selected during the RFP process and contracting is nearly complete.
3. A June 1, 2010 start date for the Consulting Partner is still expected.

Additional Contracted Support

1. The University of New Hampshire will be providing additional support to the project team. The services to be provided were outlined in the prior Project Status Update.
2. Services began in April 2010.

Office for Health Information Technology

1. As mentioned in our prior Project Status Report, three positions have been defined to establish the Office for Health Information Technology (OHIT) within the Department of Health and Human Services.
 - a. State HIT Coordinator
 - b. OHIT Project Manager
 - c. OHIT Business Systems Analyst (BSA)
2. Dave Towne accepted an offer to serve as State HIT Coordinator and joined DHHS on May 7, 2010. Dave has a BA from the University of Massachusetts and a Master of Health Administration from the University of New Hampshire. Most of his work experience has been in an IT role within the healthcare industry. Most recently, he held senior positions with the consulting firms Perot Systems (Healthcare Group), Scientific Technologies Corporation (Public Health) and IBM Global Services (Healthcare Group).
3. Dave is now interviewing several Project Manager candidates.
4. The BSA position remains on hold until the fall due to funding restrictions.

Project Team

1. Several refinements have been made to our Project Team to ensure all stakeholder groups are represented. These refinements are expected to continue into June.
2. An updated Team List will be distributed to all team members before June 1.

Sub-Teams

1. The Sub-Teams have been reorganized to confirm to the recommendations of the Consulting Partner. The revised list of Sub-Teams and their descriptions will be distributed to all team members before June 1.
2. State leaders and Consulting Partner leaders for each Sub-Team have been identified. Stakeholder membership in the new Sub-Teams has been drafted and is being refined. A list of the Sub-Team leaders and proposed Stakeholders will be distributed to all team members before June 1. Your acceptance of your assignment to a Sub-Team and interest to participate on non-assigned Sub-Teams are requested. Sub-Team membership will continue to be refined into June.
3. Due to the realignment of the Sub-Teams and the need for Consulting Partner involvement in their formation, initial drafts of Sub-Team Charters will not be created until June.

HIE Planning Phase

1. As mentioned above, the Federal State HIE Award requires a modified and accelerated approach to develop HIE Strategic and Operational Plans than originally planned. The primary requirements are:
 - a. A combined **State HIE Strategic and Operational Plan** must be submitted together as a single document, also referred to as the **State HIE Plan**.
 - b. The State HIE Plan must be submitted to the US Health and Humans Services, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) by no later than August 31, 2010.
 - c. No more than 10% of the award amount may be used for the Planning Phase.
 - d. The Planning Phase ends when the ONC approves the State HIE Plan.
 - e. ONC estimates approval of State HIE Plans within 6 weeks of receipt.
2. Of the 56 Federal State HIE Awards made, only two states (New Mexico and Utah) have an ONC-approved State HIE Plan at this time. Several states have submitted HIE Plans which are currently under review by the ONC. The link below is to the ONC's **State HIE Toolkit Planning Examples**. There, links to the two approved HIE Plans may be found.

<http://statehieresources.org/the-toolkit/general-planning/planning-examples-case-studies/>

3. The NH HIEPI Leadership Team is concerned that an HIE Plan with broad Stakeholder acceptance and with sufficient detail and direction to serve as an effective plan, can not be created and submitted to the ONC in three months (June - August). Our original estimate was 6 - 8 months. Thus we have divided our Planning effort into two segments. Segment 1 (June 1 - August 31) will develop an HIE Plan that is acceptable to the ONC but which will likely need refinement to obtain broad Stakeholder acceptance and have sufficient detail and direction in all areas. Segment 2 will begin after ONC approval is obtained to refine the Plan until broad Stakeholder acceptance is achieved and sufficient detail and direction are defined and approved.
4. More detail about the planning process will be disclosed and discussed at the **HIEPI Planning Phase Kickoff** to be held during the **afternoon of June 8** in Concord. Dial-in facilities will be available along with in person attendance. All Project Team Members including all Stakeholders will receive additional information about the HIEPI Planning Phase Kickoff very shortly.

Regional Extension Center for New Hampshire

1. Another one of the ARRA HITECH funding opportunities is the **Health Information Technology (HIT) Extension Program**. This program provides funding to help primary care physician practices and critical access hospitals implement electronic health record systems and achieve "meaningful use" in the use of those systems in order to receive Medicare / Medicaid incentives.
2. The program establishes Regional Extension Centers (RECs) throughout the country to administer the program for their areas. New Hampshire currently does not have a Regional Extension Center.

3. The HIEPI Team is in discussion with the ONC and RECs in adjacent states to establish coverage for New Hampshire.

DHHS HIT/HIE Website

1. A DHHS HIT/HIE website is currently being designed. This website will serve as a major communication vehicle between the HIEPI Project and all stakeholders and other interested parties. The website will be implemented in the next few weeks.
2. The current preliminary DHHS HIT/HIE website may be found the following URL:

http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DHHS/DHHS_SITE/hie

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