

Summary of the 2006-2007 Minnesota e-Health Grant Projects

January 11, 2007

(www.health.state.mn.us/e-health)

Background

The Minnesota e-Health grant initiative originated with Governor Pawlenty's 2006 request of \$12 million for grants to establish interoperable electronic health records in rural and underserved areas of Minnesota, for which the Minnesota Legislature ultimately appropriated \$1,500,000. The program, set out in Minnesota Statutes, section 144.3345, supports those healthcare providers and public health agencies in rural and medically underserved areas of the state that frequently cannot fully afford the conversion to health information technology. The intent is to prevent a two-tiered health system in terms of patient access to the benefits of e-Health.

Of the \$1.3 million authorized for grants (the remaining \$200,000 earmarked for administration of the program), MDH awarded 12 grants: seven for readiness assessment and planning projects for organizations exploring new or expanded health information technology (HIT), and five for implementation projects to adv

Each project consists of a community e-health collaborative of at least three health organizations that have agreed to work together to either plan for or implement electronic health records and/or health information exchange. Each of the communities listed are in rural settings, most designated as Medically Underserved and Health Professional Shortage areas.

Review of the grant proposals revealed that:

- Greater Minnesota is ready and anxious to be part of e-Health;
- rural hospitals and providers are very willing to collaborate on HIT and HIE issues as they recognize it is important for their survival;
- projects would benefit from technical support for systematic, thorough planning and help in choosing EHR and other applications; and
- the need is great—MDH received more than double the requests for funding than the program was ultimately able to support.

Planning and Readiness Assessment Projects (\$252,000 awarded)

Lead Agency: Cass Lake IHS (Cass Lake)

Collaborators: Leech Lake Tribal Health; Red lake Indian Hospital; White Earth Health Center

Description: This project will define existing data sets, leverage combined resources (medical records), assess technical capabilities & determine community support for both an HIT Records Network and a local unified health information records database that would serve 72% of the American Indian population in the region.

Amount: \$20,000

Contact: Jenny Jenkins, jenny.jenkins@ihs.gov



Lead agency: Lac qui Parle Health Network (Madison)

Collaborators: Johnson Memorial Health Services (Dawson); Appleton Area Health Services; Madison Lutheran Home

Description: Assess existing information systems and capacity at each facility; conduct cost benefit analysis for conversion to EMRs.

Amount: \$40,000

Contact: Mark Roisen, mroisen@farmerstel.net

Lead agency: Lakeview Medical Clinic (Sauk Centre)

Collaborators: Other health care providers in the Sauk Center area; Main Street Drug; Coborn's Pharmacy

Description: To support the development & implementation of e-prescribing for 800+ senior citizens in a 10 mile geographical service area. Medication histories would be collected at senior living facilities and entered into a single, shared and accessible database.

Amount: \$20,000

Contact: Mike Flicker, mflicker@lakeviewclinic.org

Lead agency: Minnesota Health Care Connection (MnHCC) (Statewide)

Collaborators: Community Health Information Collaborative (CHIC); Itasca County Health Care Network (ICHN); Stratis Health

Description: To help accelerate and drive the adoption of health information exchange (HIE) across the state through four major areas: (1) Develop a toolkit to assess the level of HIE readiness; (2) pilot and refine the toolkit by working with two HIE's (CHIC & ICHN); (3) document the current state of HIE in MN; and (4) synthesize the "MN HIE workplan."

Amount: \$49,000

Contact: Greg Linden, glinden@stratishealth.org

Lead agency: Neighborhood Health Care Network (for the Community Care Network) (Metro)

Collaborators: Northpoint Health & Wellness Center; Westside Community Health Services; Hennepin County Community Health; Hennepin County Medical Center; UCare; Minnesota Department of Human Services

Description: Conduct an assessment and create a plan for linking information systems of the multiple CCN partners so that patient data can be exchanged and managed across multiple care settings to provide comprehensive care. Assess clinical information exchange, assess what operational information exchange is needed, assess current HIT use and HIE readiness, and plan for integrated HIE among CCN partners.

Amount: \$45,000

Contact: Walter Cooney, walter.cooney@nhcn.org

Lead agency: Ortonville Area Health Services (Ortonville)

Collaborators: Graceville Health Center; Northside Medical Center; Carlson Drug; Liebe Drug; Countryside Public Health



Description: Assess current levels of IT/IS, increase understanding of the value of IT/IS and the creation of a plan of action to leverage their combined resources in order to better serve patients in a rural setting.

Amount: \$38,000

Contact: Richard Ash, ashr@ortonvilleareahealth.org

Lead agency: Roseau Area Hospital & Homes (Roseau)

Collaborators: Altru Clinic; Mattson Pharmacy

Description: Determine how to implement e-health technologies that will (1) transmit e-prescribing; (2) electronically share medication information & (3) electronic lab results.

Amount: \$40,000

Contact: Milly Prachar, mprachar@rahinc.com

Implementation Projects (\$1,048,000 awarded)

Lead agency: Community Health Information Collaborative (Northeast MN)

Collaborators: SMDC Health Systems; SISU Medical Systems; St. Luke's Hospital and Clinics; the health and/or human services agencies of Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Lake and St. Louis counties; College of St. Scholastica Center for Healthcare Innovation

Description: Expand regional health information exchange services by: (1) piloting secure e-mail; (2) expanding CHIC's single access web portal to include access to new applications and services; and (3) developing a survey tool for ongoing assessment of regional HIT adoption.

Amount: \$224,000

Contact: Cheryl Stephens, cstephens@medinfosystems.org

Lead agency: Cuyuna Range District Hospital (Crosby)

Collaborators: Central Lakes Medical Center (Crosby); Longville Lakes Clinic

Description: Implement an interoperable EHR across four health care settings. Develop and implement practice templates to improve care to patients with chronic disease.

Amount: \$200,000

Contact: Theresa Sullivan, tsullivan@sisunet.org

Lead agency: Pine Medical Center (Sandstone)

Collaborators: Gateway Family Health Clinics; Mercy Hospital and Health Care Center

Description: Upgrade and interface EHRs across multiple clinic settings; enable remote physician access to data; implement health maintenance alerts.

Amount: \$124,000

Contact: Katie Kerr, kkerr@pinemedical.org

Lead agency: Stratis Health (for a project Willmar)

Collaborators: Affiliated Community Medical Center; Family Practice Medical Center; Rice Memorial Hospital; Rice Care Center; Kandiyohi County Public Health; Kandiyohi County Human Services; University of Minnesota Health Informatics; Avenet Web

Description: Pilot a Personal Health Record (myHealthfolio) as a way to exchange data across EHRs in the Willmar area. The focus is on improving the quality and continuity of care for patients with chronic disease.

Amount: \$250,000

Contact: Sue Severson, sseverson@mnqio.sdps.org

Lead agency: **Tri-County Hospital** (Wadena)

Collaborators: Fair Oaks Lodge; Wadena Medical Clinic; Rural Radiology; Wadena County Public Health

Description: Implement an EHR in five ambulatory settings, with a focus on implementing clinical decision support and e-prescribing.

Amount: \$250,000

Contact: Maureen Ideker, maureen.ideker@tricityhospital.org

Minnesota e-Health Grants by Purpose

Four EHR:

1 Planning: Lac qui Parle Health Network (Madison);

3 Implementation: Cuyuna Range District Hospital (Cuyuna), Pine Medical Center (Sandstone), Tri County Hospital (Wadena)*

Five HIE:

4 Planning: Cass Lake (Cass Lake), MnHCC (statewide), Roseau Area Hospitals & Homes (Roseau), Neighborhood Health Care Network (Metro);

1 Implementation: Community Health Information Collaborative (NE Minnesota)

One e-Prescribing

1 Planning: Lakeview Medical Clinic (Sauk Centre)

One Assessment

1 Planning: Ortonville Area Health Services (Ortonville)*

One PHR

1 Implementation: Stratis Health (Willmar Area)*

*Denotes local public health department involvement.