

Fred Larson Presented on the Farm Bill. HR 2419.
Section 6012.

This bill has been emailed to all Steering Committee members. Follows the President's plan to fully implement medical records by 2014.

Senator Conrad has been monitoring that portion of the Farm Bill on the Senate's bill. It passed the House as is currently worded. The language that needs to be included is back-grounded in gray on page 2 (see attachment). For example, if a rural facility is partnered with a tertiary they may be excluded from the USDA grants because they must be in an area less than 20,000 (if the tertiary's population is included these funds may not be available). Attached are links to both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees from which you can obtain full copies of the two bill versions.

House:

<http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/2007FarmBill.html>

Senate: <http://agriculture.senate.gov/> Section 6012 Grants to Improve Technical Infrastructure and Improve Quality of Rural Health Care Facilities from the House version is attached as a Word Document.

Agenda item: Update from Governor's Office

Presenter: Lynette Dickson

Lynette met with Tami and Ryan on Tuesday, January 8th to clarify some questions the steering committee had.

- This committee is a 'legislatively created committee', not necessarily the Governor's committee.
- There is not a directive/charge from the Governor's office, the committee is to continue doing what they have been doing to explore the needs for the state. Terry, Jenny, Tami, Lisa, etc. will keep the Governor informed.
- If the committee decides to develop legislation for the 2009 session we are to proceed on our own as we did last Session.
- Tami Wahl will check in to having Mike Mullen participate on the Steering Committee and the Privacy/Security Work Group

Since this is now a legislatively created committee we need to follow the 'open meetings' procedure to notify the public that these meetings are being held. Currently the Steering Committee calls are supported with funds from the State Office of Rural Health grant. If the opening meeting process results in a number of additional people joining the calls we will look in to alternate sources of funding or utilize the Free Conference Call option as we are doing with the Work Groups.

Lynette will work with Londa to find out about any additional policies we need to follow and let the work group chairs know what to do.

Steering Committee Members

Nancy Willis, St. Alexius, has agreed to be the Chair for the Legislative/Policy workgroup. Lynette suggested we have her added to the Steering Committee. Lynette emailed her to see if she is willing. If she agrees, Lynette will notify Terry so that the appropriate paperwork can be sent to her.

Kimber Wraalstad, CEO Presentation Medical Center, Rolla has been added to the Steering committee and has been asked to serve on the Legislative/Policy work group.

Mitch Leupp, CEO Mountrail County Medical Center, Stanley was invited. However he declined due to other obligations, but extended his thanks and appreciation for being invited.

Agenda item:	Federal Legislative Update	Presenter:	Lindsey Henjum/Dana Halvorson
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Discussion: Dana Halvorson will be taking over for Lindsey Henjum.

The biggest bill in the Senate is the Wired for Health Care Quality Act. This bill was not passed – concerns regarding privacy issues. The Health Committee does hope to move this bill through quickly. Obama and Clinton are both on this bill. The Wired for Health Care Quality Act (S. 1693) is intended to enhance the adoption of a nationwide interoperable health information technology system and to improve the quality and reduce the costs of health care in the U.S. Senator Kennedy introduced S. 1693 on June 26, 2007, and it was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP). On June 27, 2007, the Committee considered the bill with an amendment that includes methods to preserve an individual's ability to control the acquisition, uses and disclosures of individually identifiable information. S. 1693 was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar on August 1, 2007. Recently, the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders attempted to pass S. 1693. Objections were raised by some Senators regarding various provisions (mainly the privacy provisions) of the bill, and it was not passed. The HELP Committee has indicated that it would like to move the bill along in 2008 (See Attachment).

Agenda item:	Workgroup Updates	Presenter:	Committee Chairs
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Discussion:

All workgroups have meetings set up for Jan. – April, except the HIE group, they will set up future meeting dates at their January 17th meeting. For more information, go to the HIT Steering Committee website to see meeting schedules, call in numbers, meeting minutes, workgroup members, etc. (<http://ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/sorh/hit.php>) *If you forget this link you can Google ND HIT Steering Committee and it is the first link.*

Communication/Education held a meeting January 7th – reviewed the August, 2007 meeting to bring everyone up to speed. They discussed the issues with being a legislative appointed committee. The next steps are to take what was initiated at the August meeting, fine tune it, and on the Feb. 4th meeting they will provide more details about what information they want to develop, what format and how to disseminate and what budget will be needed. Communication will go out to legislators, community at large, providers, and different associations (these are the targets at this time). The target information to get out will be the HIT initiatives, what we've done, what we are as a committee and what we are not as a committee.

Funding and Resources had a meeting January 8th. Shared some of the recent funding opportunities that have come available (CAH HIT Network Implementation grant; FCC Rural Pilot Program). HRSA will be coming out with a grant for Quality Initiatives using registries. When this comes out it will be disseminated through the CRH newsletter. Don Schott, BCBSND will notify Lynette if there will be another round of grants. This Work Group is unable to develop a budget until they know what is needed. Montana has formed non-profit, collected donations, and they are working on legislation at this time. This work group suggested that we schedule another face-to-face meeting in June or July in Bismarck. One option: Do a half day with the workgroups and the other half or full-day have presentations.

Upcoming Group Meetings

Legislation/Policy has a meeting scheduled for January 16th.

HIE has a meeting scheduled for January 17th.

Privacy/Security has a meeting scheduled for January 18th.

Please send meeting minutes to Kylie at knissen@medicine.nodak.edu so that they can be posted on the webpage.

Jenny reported that **Initiate** is willing to come out to ND or do a webinar. Jenny would like to do this through a webinar, possibly in February, sooner than later. They are willing to meet with this group at anytime. This will be discussed at the HIE work group on January 17th. The ND Dept. of Health (Tim Wiedrich) offered to work with Jenny to coordinate a demo with **Initiate**. Darryl will share this with the HIE work group.

Agenda item:	Presentation to ND Vision and Strategy Meeting	Presenter:	
Discussion:	January 25 th in Bismarck Craig Hewitt volunteered to present, Doug Kjos will do this if Craig is unavailable.		
Action items:		Person	Deadline
Revise the PowerPoint and send to Craig.		Lynette	Week of Jan. 14 th
Agenda item:	Reschedule February/March Conference Calls	Presenter:	Lynette
Discussion:	Dates changed to February 14 th and March 13 th .		
Agenda item:	New programs/opportunities	Presenter:	Terry Dwelle
Discussion:	Immunization program has changed vendors to UND and Encore, the vendor for UND to develop the bi-directional flow of billing. They are currently testing the system with 2 facilities.		