

ND HIT Steering Committee

Facilitator: Lynette Dickson

Note taker: Kylie Nissen

Attendees:

Present

Lynette Dickson, Center for Rural Health
Kylie Nissen, Center for Rural Health
Darrell Vanyo, Blue Cross Blue Shield
Dana Halvorson, Senator Conrad's Office
Laurie Peters, ND Health Information Management Association
Kimber Wraalstad, Presentation Medical Center
Barb Groutt, ND Health Care Review

Called in – not able to attend

Janis Cheney, AARP
Nancy Willis, St. Alexius
Cathy Houle, MD West River Health System
Doug Kjos, ND Health Care Review
Craig Hewitt, Meritcare
Mary Wakefield, Center for Rural Health
Chad Peterson, Northwood Deaconess Health Center

Not Present

Ray Gruby, Gruby Technologies
Lisa Feldner, ND State CIO
Mark Grove, Great Plains Clinic
Art Bakke, ND ITD/Information Security
Jeff Swank, ND ITD – filling in for Jenny Witham
Chip Thomas, ND Health Care Association
Bruce Levi, ND Medical Association
Terry Dwelle, ND Department of Health
Tami Wahl, Governor's Office
Jenny Witham, Dept of Human Services

Minutes

Agenda Item: Review January 15th minutes

Presenter: Lynette

Discussion:

Approved as is.

TASK: NA

Agenda Item: Workgroup updates

Presenter: Chair/Co-Chairs

Discussion:

Legislation/Policy (Nancy Willis/Dana Halvorson)

State Legislation - Nancy is out of town, there was no formal report at this time. Kimber reiterated that the hearing for the HIT bill (SB2332) went well and feedback was sent out to Steering Committee and Stakeholder Group following the hearing. It was heard in the Senate Human Service Committee and Senator Lee introduced the bill in Rep. Kaldor(co-sponsor) also spoke in favor. Kimber did not hear any negative comments on it, which is good news. The bill will be referred to Appropriations next.

Federal Legislation - Economic stimulus package Dana reported that DC is very busy with the discussions and work on the Stimulus Bill. She forwarded a report (*Congressional Research Service (CRS)– HIT for Economic and Clinical Health Act(HITECH) Feb 4, 2009*) regarding the Stimulus package which is up-to-date as of yesterday morning and will be put on the HIT website. If you have any questions on this report, please contact Dana (Dana_Halvorson@conrad.senate.gov) and she will inquire with CRS on your behalf. So far the HIT provisions have not been removed, however there are over 440 amendments submitted which they will monitor and keep us informed.

Lynette and seven other ND representatives met with Leg. Aides for Sens. Conrad, Dorgan, and Rep. Pomeroy when attending the National Rural Health Association Policy Institute in Washington DC (Feb 24-28). There was much concern and discussion among participants regarding the issue of critical access hospitals (CAH) being excluded from the (House version of the Stim. Pkg.) Medicare incentive program for using EMRs. This was based on the rationale that they are Medicare “cost based reimbursed” and was perceived to be “double dipping”. Three representatives from Eide Bailley (one from ND)attended the Institute, and were able to provide clarification on this issue during the Hill visits, along with many CAH administrators from across the country.

Resource Documents:

- 1) American Telemedicine Assoc. Recommendations for Stimulus Package
- 2) HIT Stimulus in Senate/House
- 3) CAH in the Stimulus Package
- 4) Rural Health Coalition Recommendations for Stimulus Package
- 5) Congressional Research Service-HIT for Economic and Clinical Health Act(HITECH)

The ND Rural Health Association has disseminated the information to rural CEOs with regard to this issue and hospital administrators (Darrold Bertsch, CEO Southwest Health Center, Bowman; Dan Kelly, McKenzie County Health Systems, Watford City; and Cathy Swenson, CEO Nelson County Health System, McVillie) have already taken the initiative to contact the Congressional offices providing input, clarification on this critical issue. Kimber also offered assistance at any time on behalf of CAHs.

The National Organization of State Office of Rural Health (NOSORH), National Rural Health Association (NRHA)and National Rural HIT Coalition have also shared recommendations with Congressional folks with regard to the Stimulus Package.

When the funds come available, organizations and States will need to be in a position to act fast and most projects will have approx. 18 months to be completed.

Communication/Education (Laurie Peters) – NDHIMA distributed the information to their members regarding SB2332; NDHA included the Bill on their Capital View.

TASK: *All Steering Committee and Stakeholder group members are to inform your respective facility/ organization members to encourage them to inform their legislators about the Bill SB2332 and ask for their support.*

Funding/Resource- Nothing to report at this time

Health Information Exchange (Darryl Vanyo/Chad Peterson) -Their last meeting was used to discuss what is feasible for them to be doing. They recognize that there is vital planning work that needs to be done for our state, limited participation (3-5) on the calls, no funding or designated state it is very challenging to make any progress. It is questionable if our state would be 'shovel ready' to take advantage of the Stimulus funds when they come available. This group is hopeful that if the proposed ND Bill passes and a state HIT Officer is hired then it might be easier to get all CIOs/IT managers engaged in this process. However, even with a potential hired staff person, volunteer input from stakeholders, public and private, will be needed to provide advice and direction.

NOTE: When webinars have been scheduled in the past over 60 plus are invited to participate in the webinars to inform and educate on potential HIE vendor options. Currently five of the six urban facilities are included in these email group list; and 10-12 rural facilities are included on the list. The CHR also has a list of CIOs/IT managers that was gathered by the survey process.

TASK: Lynette/Kylie will email Darryl the list of ND hospital CIOs/IT managers to include in the HIE workgroup invitation to participate.

TASK: HIE workgroup will expand their reach for discussions/webinars for state planning.

Privacy/Security - Nothing to report at this time

Agenda Item: 2009 Steering Committee & Workgroup Conference **Presenter:** Lynette
Call Dates – on website

Discussion:

Meeting dates are on the website. If there is a change, please Lynette or Kylie know so that the website can be updated.

TASK: Notify Lynette or Kylie of changes in meeting dates.

Agenda Item: HIT/HIE Conference/Workshops/Resources **Presenter:** Lynette

Discussion:

UPCOMING TELECONFERENCE - FEDERAL LEGISLATION, HEALTH IT AND SLHIE

Topic: *Overview of the Federal Economic Stimulus Legislation and Implications for State-level HIE Efforts*

Guest: *William Bernstein, Manatt Health Solutions*

Date: *Monday, February 9, 2009*

Time: *2:00 – 3:00PM Central (A Live Meeting Appointment will be sent separately!)*

As you know, legislation with significant impact on Health IT adoption and HIE is rapidly advancing through the federal Congress with expectations for mid-February passage. States are pressing to understand the implications of this legislation in light of their current state-level HIE efforts. William Bernstein, a principle with Manatt Health Solutions, is working closely with key states and will present a timely review of the key aspects of the legislation and its current status.

You are invited to an online meeting using Live Meeting.

Join the

meeting. <https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/ahima/join?id=2%2F6%2F2009+SLHIE&role=present&pw=4%23%5DnG%3D2>>

Choose one of the following:

* Start Live Meeting client, and then in Voice & Video pane under Join Audio options, click Call Me. The conferencing service will call you at the number you specify. (Recommended)

* Use the information below to connect:

Toll-free: +1 (866) 848-2885

Participant code: 4764981083

First Time Users:

To save time before the meeting, check your system <<http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=90703>> to make sure it is ready to use Microsoft Office Live Meeting.

Troubleshooting

Unable to join the meeting? Follow these steps:

1. Copy this address and paste it into your web browser:

<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/ahima/join>

2. Copy and paste the required information:

Meeting ID: 2/6/2009 SLHIE

Entry Code: 4#]nG=2

Location: <https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/ahima>

If you still cannot enter the meeting, contact support <<http://www.webconferencesupport.com>>

ARCHIVED WEBINAR AVAILABLE

State Health Policy to Advance Health IT: An Overview of State Legislative Strategies

Broadcast on January 28, 2009

Following is the link for the seminar replay:

www.vcall.com/replay then enter your name and e-mail address and the replay # **2146002900**, to view the archive.

This seminar uses Internet streaming audio, which requires Flash – you can download Flash at: (note long link please be sure to copy all to your browser) <http://www.adobe.com/shockwave/download/download.cgi/>

NOTE to Ad Blocker and Pop-up Stopper Users. Ad blocker software that prevents pop-up windows will prevent the Replay window from opening automatically. If you entered a Replay and do not see the window, temporarily disable your ad blocker software or grant an exception in your ad blocker software for this site.

2) March 12 - The CAH HIT Pilot Project (CAH HIT Network Implementation Grant) winds up this month and they will be hosting one final hooray for the hospitals to share their stories on Thursday, March 12th 11am-3pm – Alerus, Grand Forks. Each of the 3 CAHs (Northwood, Park River, Cavalier) and Altru will present on a portion of implementing an EMR such as vendor selection, planning, staff training, network relationships, engaging staff, clinical modules, patient outcomes, and more! If you are interested in attending, please save the date and RSVP to either Marlene Miller marlenemiller@medicine.nodak.edu or Lynette Dickson ldickson@medicine.nodak.edu.

[Next Conference Call](#)

Thursday, March 4, 2009

3:00 – 4:00 pm CST
