

Facilitator:	Lynette Dickson	Type of meeting:	Teleconference
		Note taker:	Kylie Nissen

Present

Lynette Dickson, Center for Rural Health
 Kylie Nissen, Center for Rural Health
 Laurie Peters, ND Health Information Management Association
 Kimber Wraalstad, Presentation Medical Center
 Dave Peske, ND Medical Association
 Dana Halvorson, Senator Conrad's Office
 Janis Cheney, AARP
 Tami Wahl, Governor's Office
 Darrin Meschke, Dept. of Health
 Lisa Feldner, ND State CIO
 Darrell Vanyo, Blue Cross Blue Shield
 Craig Hewitt, Meritcare
 Mary Wakefield, Center for Rural Health
Attendees: Jenny Witham, Dept of Human Services
 Mark Grove, Great Plains Clinic

Called in – not able to attend-

Ray Gruby, Gruby Technologies
 Chad Peterson, Northwood Deaconess Health Center
 Terry Dwelle, ND Department of Health (sent a representative)

Not Present-

Karen Haskins, ND Health Care Association
 Doug Kjos, ND Health Care Review
 Cathy Houle, MD West River Health System
 Dave Remillard, ND Health Care Review

Guest – Jon Rice, MD (BCBSND)

Minutes

Agenda item:	BCBSND Presentation	Presenter:	Jon Rice, MD BCBSND
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Project: Diabetes Management pilot project in conjunction with Meritcare.

Process: This project provided enhanced services for diabetes management using EHR, which was key in measuring care. Looked at patients diagnosed with diabetes and compared with another diabetes program that didn't participate in the management program. Project time frame was 1 year and involved 200 patients diagnosed with diabetes.

Results: Outcome: improved HgA1c and blood pressure; a decrease in ER and hospital visits.

Saved about \$500/patient for one year. Meritcare was provided the amount saved as an incentive at the conclusion of the project.

Congratulations! The paper on this project was submitted and selected as a Blueworks Award.

http://ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/sorh/pdf/2007BlueWorksAwardWinner_BCBSND.pdf

Currently they are conducting another project with patients diagnosed with diabetes, hypertension and cardio vascular disease.

Future: BCBSND is considering a future statewide program, modeled after a project in Iowa. Questions: How to make this available across the state. How do you get the info to providers without EMRs? Iowa is using a service that sits on top of medical records and is able to extract the relevant data i.e. HbA1c, BP etc. MD DataCore is the company is the technology solution being use.

The question was posed if this is a similar program to the ORION Rhapsody overlay system being use in the CAH HIT grant project with CRH. Darrell Vanyo and Jon Rice will explore the two products.

Agenda item:

Work Group Updates

Presenter:

Workgroup Chairs

Discussion:

Finance/Resources - did not have a call last month.

Communication/Education – will update the facts sheet developed in December 2006. Will be sent to legislators. The facts sheet will be shared with the work group at their next meeting on March 3rd for review. Will need approximately 200.

HIE – January update...by Feb. 1st the state should have the immunization project implemented. Talked about ORION, which is being used in the CAH HIT grant project, administered by the CRH. This won't be in full use until 2nd or 3rd quarter of this year. The work group will possibly look into getting a demo set-up with them. Discussed Initiate Systems, there will be a planning meeting tomorrow to set up a webinar. Discussed Advanced Medical home. This work group has set their meetings for the third Thursday of the month from 11:00am – Noon.

Legislative/Policy– Dana Halvorson reported that a Budget committee hearing was held this morning.

<http://budget.senate.gov/democratic/> - Senator Conrad's home page for his Budget Committee website - the Senator's opening statement and charts he used in the Committee's hearing today are at the top of the page.

<http://budget.senate.gov/democratic/hearingstate.html> - This site goes to who the witnesses are and testimony and anyone can view the actual hearing as well from this site. You can access this page by going to the main website listed above and click on hearings and statements to the left of the page.

Privacy/Security – Will try to begin initiative with some of the neighboring states. Alana Knudson has talked to the UND law school to see if there is a student who would be interested in exploring the state statutes versus other state's laws regarding sharing health information in state and across borders. New Hampshire is allowing patients to be able to require an audit trail of their records. National governor's association is looking for nominations for committee members. Mike Mullen will be nominated for a position and if they have 2 nominations available, then Craig Hewitt will also be nominated as ND representatives. Those selected will be reimbursed through MGA. Jenny and Tami will have a conference call to discuss the next steps in nominations and email Craig what they decide.

Dave Peske mentioned new legislation introduced in New Hampshire that would allow consumers to request an audit trail of who has accessed their 'electronic medical records'.

Reminder to all: All minutes and supporting documents should be sent for posting on the website. Also, the call in numbers, dates/times for all meetings are online.

Agenda item:	Update - Presentation to ND Vision and Strategy Group	Presenter:	Craig Hewitt
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Discussion: Presentation will be placed on the website. This document is available for anyone to use.

Meeting went well. They were given an overview of the steering committee, past, present, and future steps/accomplishments. They wanted to make sure that we work with them to coordinate what we are doing so that there isn't overlap. They were very interested in what we have learned from neighboring states. There were questions about if we know what the utilization was of HIT use in North Dakota.

Agenda item:	HIT (hospitals, clinics, LTC) Surveys	Presenter:	Lynette
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Discussion:

We are using the QIO hospital and clinic surveys as a template for developing a survey tool.. Shelley Peterson from the LTC Association and Lynette will work on a tool for LTC. The clinic and hospital surveys have been sent to the committee members (twice) for feedback; 3 have responded.

The CRH will work with the appropriate state entities (i.e. MGMA – clinics, CRH for hospitals, LTCA) to disseminate the surveys to ensure an optimum response rate. Target date to distribute the surveys is the end of March and then 4-6 weeks, depending on the response rate, the CRH will have the data compiled. Please send feedback by email or call Lynette.

Agenda item:

New programs/opportunities

Presenter:

Discussion:

a) BCBSND Rural HIT Outreach Grants (Year Seven)

BCBSND has budgeted \$375,000 in grant monies for 2008 rural health grants

b) NDSU Telepharmacy

The North Dakota Telepharmacy Project has received \$813,535 in congressional mandated funding for Fiscal Year 2008. These dollars, in large part, will be spent on developing telepharmacy services to small rural (critical access) hospitals across the state that are currently struggling to maintain pharmacist staffing and pharmacy services.

c) HRSA, Office of Rural Health Policy

Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement (SHCPQI) Grant Program - will assist rural providers with the implementation of quality improvement strategies, while improving patient care and chronic disease outcomes.

Application Deadline: March 20, 2008

d) HRSA, Office of HIT -

Electronic Health Record Implementation Initiative

This funding opportunity will support implementation of an electronic health record (EHR) by health centers.

Letter of Intent (Optional): Feb 8, 2008

Application Deadline: Mar 21, 2008

Health Information Technology (HIT) Planning Grants

Funding to support health centers in structured planning activities that will prepare them to adopt Electronic Health Records (EHR) or other HIT innovations.

Application Deadline: Apr 15, 2008

Health Information Technology Innovation Initiative

Funding to implement health information technologies (HIT) other than electronic health records for Health Center Controlled Networks.

Application Deadline: Mar 28, 2008

Go to www.raconline.org for more information on the HRSA grants.

e) A CMS demonstration project is in the works for small to medium sized facilities. Goal is to show a reduction in errors due to the use of EHRs. No financial incentives available to implement the EHRs. For more information you can go to the website.

Background

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt kicked off a national tour last week to raise awareness for a new Medicare pilot project that will reward physicians for delivering high quality care supported by the adoption and use of electronic health records (EHRs). This pilot stemmed from a meeting BCBSA CEO, Scott Serota, had with the Secretary in which he suggested using the power of the Medicare purse - in tandem with private sector efforts -- to move doctors to adopt EHRs. This Medicare pilot is an outgrowth of that meeting and dovetails well with BCBSA Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) pilots as well as some of the existing efforts underway by our Plans to promote the adoption of health IT.

In touring the country, Secretary Leavitt and/or CMS Acting Administrator Kerry Weems, will raise awareness of this initiative and encourage communities to apply to be part of the demo. HHS intends to make awards to collaboratives that have - or will have - private sector support. This could be collaboratives of health plans, health systems (hospitals), physicians and/or existing health IT collaboratives, whether at the state, regional or local level, or other types of collaborations.

Medicare will launch the pilot by summer in 12 sites (states or regions). We have been working with HHS to make sure they are aware of existing Blue initiatives - and HHS has already reached out to some Plans to participate and even host events.

Additional sites may be added - and please note that this schedule is subject to change. Information on these events and the demonstration will soon be available at:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/downloads/2008_Electronic_Health_Records_Demonstration.pdf

If you are interested in learning more or participating in these events, please contact Justine Handelman at Justine.Handelman@bcbsa.com or 202-626-4801.

More information on the demonstration.

[Employer Forum Feb 2008 Slides](#)

http://www.bcbsaforms.org/downloads/Employer_Forum_FEB_2008_modified_briefing_slides_as_of__012808.pdf

[EHR Project Fact Sheet](#)

http://www.bcbsaforms.org/downloads/EHR_fact_sheet_final.pdf

Additional Agenda Items

The UND Family Practice Centers are looking for funding opportunities to support the implementation of EHR.

It was suggested that they contact the Rural Assistance Center(RAC) at the Center for Rural Health www.raconline.org to request a funding search.

