

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

Jenny Witham, Dept of Human Services

Kimber Wraalstad, Presentation Medical Center

Chad Peterson, Northwood Deaconess Health Center

Dana Halvorson, Senator Conrad's Office

Called in – not able to attend

Janis Cheney, AARP

Darrell Vanyo, Blue Cross Blue Shield

Craig Hewitt, Meritcare

Nancy Willis, St. Alexius

Lisa Feldner, ND State CIO

Terry Dwelle, ND Department of Health

Laurie Peters, ND Health Information Management Association

Not Present

Art Bakke, ND ITD/Information Security

Barb Groutt, ND Health Care Review

Ray Gruby, Gruby Technologies

Mark Grove, Great Plains Clinic

Cathy Houle, MD West River Health System

Doug Kjos, ND Health Care Review

Bruce Levi, ND Medical Association

Jeff Swank, ND ITD – filling in for Jenny Witham

Chip Thomas, ND Health Care Association

Tami Wahl, Governor's Office

Minutes**Agenda Item:** Stimulus Package Discussion**Presenter:** Lynette**Discussion:**

Lynette and Kylie participated today in the Rural Health Day at the Capitol, coordinated by the ND Rural Health Association, this morning. In addition, Pete Antonson, CEO Northwood Deaconess (ND RHA - President) and Cathy Swenson, CEO Nelson County Medical Center, McVille (Secretary - ND RHA) spoke with a number of legislators with regard to the need for funding support for HIT through SB 2332.

Senate and House Appropriations also met about the Stimulus Bill at 7:45 am this morning for a presentation from OMB on what dollars they thought would be coming in to the state (\$573 million); where the funds could be utilized for items current budgeted expenses; leaving \$233 million to be transitioned to the General Fund for 2011-2013. Questions remain about stimulus funds for HIT, therefore no additional funds at this point were put in this line item and it remains at \$500,000. They

still have a lot of questions about what is coming and what is needed in the state budget. It was reported by OMB that the HIT funds will be coming directly to providers – which is in part correct, via Medicare/Medicaid enhanced incentives starting 2011. However, it is critical that that this committee/stakeholders, etc. provide clarification and make the case that support is still very much needed to get the facilities to a level of EHR adoption in order to be a ‘meaningful user’ (Definition still needs to be defined, but the following has been discussed on national calls – must use a certified EHR, be able to exchange quality data(what data TBD), be part of a health information exchange(what is HIE TBD), and e-prescribing (clinics only); which will be a requirement to be eligible to access the Medicare/Medicaid incentive dollars. Also important to note, if physicians and hospitals are not ‘meaningful users’ of EHR the incentive program will be phased in to penalties for not adopting.

It is our understanding, at this point, that there will be “some” dollars funneled into existing grants (e.g. HRSA, AHRQ, etc.) which will be made available fairly soon (possibly June or July); this will still be grants which ND facilities will need to compete for and now there will be increased competition.

Next - there will be dollars available for loan/grant programs to states or a ‘designated entity’ to support HIE (what HIE is TBD) planning/implementation – which has a required state match (document emailed-2/19). We are fairly confident that there won’t be a lot of money dumped directly into states for EHR implementation. We know that the ND facilities, especially rural are not at even the minimum level of EHR adoption necessary to be considered a ‘meaningful user’.

TASK: Lynette will work on getting additional clarification on the Stimulus Funds. Please communicate to Lynette if there is additional information that you might be receiving through your various organizations/associations on this issue.

Agenda Item: Workgroup updates

Presenter: Chair/Co-Chairs

Discussion:

Legislation/Policy (Nancy Willis(absent)/Dana Halvorson) –

Dana agreed that the information reported was correct, so far. There still remains much detail to be worked out once the all Cabinet members are confirmed (e.g. Sec. DHHS) however it is imperative that this group step up efforts and work collectively to gather the needed background information to justify to state legislators what is needed from the state and what we may be able to access from federal support. (see CRS The HITECH Act - February 23, 2009).

Next Hearing – SB2332 – This is not scheduled to date. Lynette will work with Lisa and all will be notified when a date is confirmed. It is also evident that not all stakeholders have communicated about the Bill to the members of the organizations/associations/facilities, they represent- what it is, why it is important, etc. It is imperative that this is done in a more comprehensive manner going forward.

Lynette met with Dr. Dwelle and Arvy, and Lisa during the day.

- They are very supportive an Advisory Committee with decision making authority over a HIT officer. There is a successful model with the K-12 Education Technology Council that can be used a working model.

- Not interested in creating an entire new body.

Should the committee form a non-profit organization? This might be a necessary step for eligibility for some grant funding.

Please Note: The immediate need is for language to capture these stimulus dollars which can be offered as an amendment to 2332; and for the all stakeholders be responsive to requests for information so we can continue the work of capturing/calculating some solid numbers that illustrate to legislators an estimate of cost to get hospitals AND some idea of HIE.

Communication/Education (Laurie Peters) – Nothing to reported at this time.

Funding/Resource – This group recognized the need to get numbers on paper which illustrate to legislators/others the impact of the Medicare incentives on critical access hospitals. Marin Swofford (Stanley), Becky Hansen(Bowman), Dan Kelly(Watford City) and Ralph Llewellyn (Eide Bailley) volunteered to work on crunching the numbers and talking points on financial impact based on a \$1 million investment; If they have an EHR and if they do NOT. A first draft was recvd March 5th.

Health Information Exchange (Darryl Vanyo/Chad Peterson) – this call had about 13 call in, all the IT managers/CIOs were invited from the ND hospitals (using the names from the HIT surveys); Craig Hewitt has agreed to take over as co-chair when Darryl retires (July).

Since we know there will be money available for HIE to state loan/grant programs this group needs to step up its efforts to further discuss and finalize a technical plan for the state. It was agreed that a face to face- working meeting is needed to address this. It was suggested that we try to schedule it in conjunction of the next Hearing so folks could potentially go to both. A followup email was sent to this group asking for their flexibility and willingness to participate in a meeting/hearing.

In order to get a grasp on the amount of dollars it might take to get facilities to a particular level of EHR adoption. The group agreed to use the HIMSS EMR adoption model. It has been discussed on national calls that a facility needs to be at a minimum, a Level 4 in order to exchange health information.

The following were asked to gather information from the facilities in their group/networks asking two questions:

#1)Using the HIMSS EMR adoption model, what level do you think your facility is at?

#2) What is an 'estimate' of what it would cost to get you there?

Information was to be sent to Lynette by March 4th. The CRH will then compile and provide to the HIE work group.

Information received date (March 8)

Todd Bortke - six urban facilities (heard from Innovis - Thank you Ken!, Altru working on it)

Tim Cox - Northland Healthcare Alliance (working on it)

Robert Heidt would contact Jon Linelle - North Region Health Alliance (no response do date)

Sheryl Leas – NWAIT (completed) Yahoo!!!!

Rachael Schaan - CHI facilities (working on it)

Standards Work Group – There has been and still remains a need for having a work group that looks at standards. Doug Kjos (QIO) has agreed to Chair this committee, Lynette will speak with Alec (Altru) if he is willing to co-chair this group; also volunteered to participate Jenny(DHHS), Lisa and Jeff Swank(ITD). If you are interested or have a suggestion of someone with in your org/facility that would actively contribute please let Lynette know ASAP.

Privacy/Security - Nothing to report at this time.

Agenda Item: Webinar

Presenter: Lynette

Discussion:

HealthShare Montana is a group, similar to the Steering Committee, but is a non-profit. The graciously invited us to participate in a webinar which they sponsored, following the Steering Committee call. This webinar was to discuss the health information exchange provisions of the HITECH Act, March 5th at 5 pm MST.

The webinar featured Lynn Dierker, Project Director for the State Level Health Information Exchange Leadership Forum, a program managed by the American Health Information Management Organization under a contract with National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and Lamott Dupont, Manatt Health Solutions.

This call was recorded and if I rcv the info to access I will send out.

Agenda Item: HIT/HIE Conference/Workshops/Resources

Presenter:

Discussion:

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 to be held at UND, Center for Innovation, Thursday, March 12th 11-4 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! There will also be a presentation by Louis Wenzlow, CIO/Director of HIT Network for the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative on the impact of the Stimulus Package on CAHs. If you are interested in attending , please save the date and RSVP to Lynette Dickson ldickson@medicine.nodak.edu.

Knowing that there is a shortage of IT workforce and that there will also be funding through the Economic Stimulus for education/training, Dennis Alberts (Dean of College of Business) and Tim O'Keefe, Chair, Department at UND and others along with John Cowger, Lake Region GFAFB were invited to learn about the EHR implementation process which might inform future efforts to address the workforce shortages in IT. For more information contact Lynette.

[Next Conference Call](#)

Thursday, April 9, 2009

3:00 – 4:00 pm CST
