

**Notes -The HIE work group conference call
Thursday, February 26, 2009, at 11:00 AM**

Present: Darrell Vanyo, Lynette Dickson, Alan Okerson, Robert Heidt, Ken Gilles, Todd Bortke, Sheryl Leas, Jenny Witham, Rachael Schaan, Jordan Axtman, Jeff Swank, Tim Cox, and Patty Kritzberger

1. HIE Work Group

Darrell explained to the those new to the HIE workgroup the primary focus of this workgroup. The HIE workgroup is charged with the task of setting the work plan for statewide health information exchange. The difficulties in doing so without a statewide director and without funding were discussed. The need for more statewide involvement of providers (particularly IT professionals) was realized and that is the reason why all statewide provider IT leadership were invited to participate in the HIE workgroup for this meeting and into the future. The Federal Economic Stimulus Bill and its' tremendous financial potential for all State providers was discussed in detail. This led to the next topic (SB2332) because of the need for state matching grants in order to take full advantage of receiving federal dollars. A good work plan for statewide HIE implementation and state matching dollars are primary drivers for access to any Federal grant monies. Questions were raised with regard to the language within the provisions which will require a "certified" EHR; What does that mean to early adopters? Lynette will attempt to clarify this with Congressional Offices. If others receive clarification, please share with Lynette in order to disseminate.

2. Thank you to those who joined us for the first time.

The link for the HIT Steering Committee is <http://ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/sorh/hit.php>
There is a Feature Box for **ND HIT Legislation** where you will find SB2332, an overview of the bill; also the HIT Report "*Connecting ND for a Healthier Future*", *HIT fact sheet and EMR Adoption Map*.

Among other information, conference call dates/times; committee members, resources.

3. SB233

Darrell and Lynette explained the current status of SB2332 - the statewide HIT bill providing for a state HIT Director's office and for significant dollars to advance HIE within the state. The reduction in the appropriation requested was explained and further discussion centered around the need to get this appropriation re-instated. Everyone was urged to volunteer to testify, contact legislators, and to contact other provider IT leaders to get behind this bill 100% and help get it passed with as many dollars as possible for grants and the state HIT office. This will not only ensure that HIT is being advanced in the state, but also ensure that providers will be eligible to receive the highest possible Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement incentives (avoid penalties) by making use of HIE in their own organizations. Lynette will notify all members when the next hearing is scheduled as many people as possible can attend and support this bill. It was agreed that some supportive financial information is needed to demonstrate what the cost will be to advance ND facilities in EMR adoption.

Action: Using the HIMSS EMR Adoption Model,
http://ruralhealth.und.edu/projects/sorh/pdf/emr_adoption_stages.pdf
the following people agreed to gather the information from facilities in their respective networks/groups below and send to Lynette by Wednesday, March 4th.

Two questions to be answered:

1) What level of EMR adoption is your facility is at? (Level 1 - 7)

2) What is the approximate cost to advance their facility to a complete Level 4.

Todd Bortke - six urban facilities
Tim Cox - Northland Healthcare Alliance
Robert Heidt - North Region Health Alliance
Sheryl Leas - NWAIT
Rachael Schaan - CHI facilities

3. HIT workplan

Darrell explained the need to have a work plan in place so that ND providers/agencies are positioned to be "shovel ready" for any grant applications that may be available via the stimulus package in the future. To that end, Darrell suggested a face to face meeting of all HIE work group members in order to lay the groundwork for such a work plan. Darrell will send out some suggestions for dates and get a meeting scheduled to begin this process. Darrell notified the HIE work group of his plan for retirement, July 1. Craig Hewitt(CIO-Meritcare) has agreed to take Darrell's place in co-chairing this work group into the future. Chad Peterson(Northwood) will continue in his current role as a co-chair. Craig and Chad will lead the efforts of the HIE work group to develop a statewide HIE work plan beginning with the upcoming face to face meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10PM.
Darrell Vanyo
Sr. Vice President and CIO
Noridian Mutual Ins. Co.