

December 4, 2013

To: NITC Commissioners
From: Anne Byers
Subject: eHealth Council Report

Provider Satisfaction of Health Information Exchange. Our evaluation team from UNMC surveyed health care providers in Nebraska about their satisfaction of health information exchange. Survey respondents identified cost and lost productivity during implementation as perceived barriers. Respondents identified accessing a comprehensive list of the patient's medications, accessing a comprehensive list of the patient's allergies, and viewing lab results from other providers as the most important functionalities for inclusion in a health information exchange. Over three times as many NeHII users reported being satisfied, compared to being dissatisfied. The information from the survey will help NeHII prioritize future functionality.

Request for 90/10 Matching HIE Funds from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Nebraska Medicaid Program submitted a request for 90/10 matching funds for health information exchange to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The request for funding for eBHIN was denied. Additional information on the NeHII proposal was requested and sent to CMS. An updated request for funding will be sent to CMS this which contains just the NeHII proposal.

E-Prescribing Controlled Substances. E-prescribing continues to grow in Nebraska. In Oct. 2013, nearly 3,000 physicians (89%) in Nebraska e-prescribed. Ninety-seven percent of community pharmacies in Nebraska accept e-prescriptions. The next issue on the horizon is e-prescribing controlled substances. E-prescribing controlled substances has been rolling out nationwide and is permissible in Nebraska if prescribers and pharmacies meet all of the requirements set out by the Drug Enforcement Agency. Currently, Hy-Vee pharmacies and some independent pharmacies in Nebraska are using certified systems. Only a handful of prescribers in Nebraska are using systems which are certified for e-prescribing controlled substances. It is likely that we will start to see some e-prescriptions for controlled substances in Nebraska in the near future as more providers and pharmacies upgrade their systems. The map below shows pharmacy participation in e-prescribing controlled substances. The eHealth Council's E-Prescribing Work Group met on Dec. 3 to discuss outreach efforts to pharmacies and prescribers.

eBHIN. The Electronic Behavioral Health Information Network (eBHIN) currently has 498 users from 27 organizations in the Omaha area (Region 6) and Southeast Nebraska (Region 5). Three more organizations in the Omaha area will be joining eBHIN. eBHIN is also working on a grant proposal with Region 3 in Central Nebraska for funding for Region 3 to join eBHIN.

State HIE Cooperative Agreement Update. The State HIE Cooperative Agreement ends March 14, 2014. We have expended 94% of our grant funds. Here is a breakdown of the expenditures.

	Expended	Allocated	% Expended	Balance
NeHII	\$4,825,317.51	\$4,945,775.00	98%	\$120,457.49
State/NITC	\$102,186.74	\$109,575.00	93%	\$7,388.26
Eval/UNMC	\$178,778.18	\$269,435.00	66%	\$90,656.82
eBHIN	\$1,092,287.64	\$1,112,275.00	98%	\$19,987.36
Pub Health	\$172,071.56	\$326,500.00	53%	\$154,428.44
Telehealth	\$70,802.01	\$73,620.00	96%	\$2,817.99
Total	\$6,441,443.64	\$6,837,180.00	94%	\$395,736.36

Membership. Carol Brandl represented the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network on the eHealth Council. Upon her retirement, the telehealth network nominated Max Thacker as their representative. Max Thacker served on the NITC Community Council's Telehealth Subcommittee and was instrumental in the development of the telehealth network. Mr. Thacker is the associate director of Information Technology Services at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. His bio can be found on the following page.

Max Thacker
Associate Director
Information Technology Services
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Max Thacker has extensive experience in the broadcast and Information Technology professions managing engineering, tele-medical and distance learning environments. Since 1999, he has served as Associate Director for Information Technology Services for the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. His primary responsibility is the development and implementation of video technologies including distance learning, classroom support, telehealth clinics and video conferencing. His responsibilities also include the development of telehealth systems and services to meet the needs of rural Nebraska as well as UNMC's international partners.

Thacker has served on numerous commissions and organizations and currently serves as co-chair of the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network Governing Board.