

March 17, 2015

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

E-Prescribing Controlled Substances Update. Nebraska is now a leader in e-prescribing controlled substances (EPCS). Nebraska ranks third in the nation for “prescriber readiness,” meaning that the prescriber is enabled and has sent EPCS within the last 30 days. As of February, Nebraska has 8.6% of the approximately 10,000 prescribers who have performed EPCS within the last 30 days. The national average is 3.2%. Nebraska ranks 8th in the nation for “pharmacy readiness,” defined as the pharmacy is enabled but may or may not have received an EPCS script. Of the 431 Nebraska pharmacies in the Surescripts system, 76% are EPCS enabled. The national average is 72%.

NeHII Update. NeHII now has approximately 4,400 users and data on over 2.9 million individuals. This spring NeHII has started working with Optum to migrate to a new platform which will enable additional functionality.

NeHII has been working with the NDHHS Division of Medicaid and Long-term Care to obtain 90/10 matching funding for the support of meaningful use of health information. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has approved the contract with NeHII this week. Once the contract is signed, NeHII can start working with hospitals on their implementations.

Office of the National Coordinator Funding Opportunity. In February, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT announced a new funding opportunity for states or state-designated entities to advance health information exchange. The NITC/Office of the CIO has been working with NeHII, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and the DHHS Division of Public Health to develop a proposal. The primary goal of this grant proposal is to increase the adoption of health information exchange through NeHII by:

- 1) Bringing new facilities on-board the exchange with a specific focus on critical access hospitals/rural hospitals and long-term care facilities;
- 2) Providing assistance to new facilities with workflow analysis and use case based training on the use of NeHII;
- 3) Providing additional value-added functionality for existing participants, including a provider directory for Direct secure e-mail, population analytics, and continuity of care document exchange; and
- 4) Implementing information exchange between neighboring states.

The application deadline is April 6, 2015.

Next Steps for eHealth Council. From 2010 to 2014, the eHealth Council was focused on administering the State HIE Cooperative Agreement. Now that the grant has concluded, the eHealth Council met in November to discuss next steps. The council will meet again on March 30 to discuss the proposal for

ONC funding. Sheri Dawson, Acting Director of the Division of Behavioral Health has been invited to share information on the new behavioral health information system and how to address the exchange of behavioral health information.