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eHealth News from the NITC eHealth Council

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Nebraska News

NITC funds four eHealth projects

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission approved funding four eHealth projects totaling \$156,637 from the NITC's Community Technology Fund. The eHealth projects funded support the adoption of eHealth technologies and the action plans of the eHealth Council. A \$100,000 grant to the Panhandle Public Health District will support the efforts of the Western Nebraska Health Information Exchange to improve the quality of patient care through the exchange of patient health information among providers. The development of a health information exchange among behavioral health providers in southeast Nebraska will be enhanced through a \$40,000 grant to Region V Systems. Two grants totaling \$16,637 will enhance the understanding of health information security and privacy through the development of a Web site and consumer education materials.

SNBHIN seeks network director

Lincoln based private, nonprofit corporation seeks Director to lead Network development efforts for cutting-edge behavioral health information exchange system between providers in Southeast Nebraska.

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Responsible for leading a team of staff and consultant contractors to design, acquire and implement all components of the information network. Serves as the primary administrator, responsible for the planning, marketing, fiscal management, human resources and fund development activities of the Network. Works under the direction of a Board of Directors representative of Behavioral Health service providers in SE Nebraska.

Requires excellent organization, administration and communication skills. Demonstrated group facilitation and planning skills. Hands-on experience negotiating contracts for products and services, budget development and control, fund development concepts and the ability to work independently with minimal supervision. Bachelors degree required with 5 years progressive experience in community development, group leadership or related role.

SNBHIN offers competitive wages, benefits, paid holidays and vacation. Compensation range \$45,000-\$58,000. To apply, mail resume by July 11th to SNBHIN, 1645 N St. Suite A, Lincoln, NE, 68506.

eHealth Council will meet August 13

The NITC eHealth Council will meet on Wednesday, August 13 from 9:30 AM to 12:00 noon in Lincoln. The location will be announced later. Meeting information will be available at the NITC's Web site (www.nitc.ne.gov).

HISPC will meet July 23

The eHealth Council's Health Information Security and Privacy Committee will meet Wednesday, July 23rd from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, in Conf. Room 6-Z, State Office Bldg. in Lincoln, NE; Phone Bridge

#402-472-6290. For more information, please contact Anne Byers (anne.byers@nebraska.gov) or Dennis Berens (dennis.berens@dhhs.ne.gov).

NeHII partners with Axolotl to deliver statewide HIE

NeHII has selected Axolotl Corp. of San Jose as the technology partner to deploy a health Information Exchange (HIE) to improve health care quality and efficiency across Nebraska. On June 26th, 2008 NeHII and Axolotl signed a letter of intent to partner with one another. Prior to signing the letter of intent, several NeHII board members and representatives traveled to San Jose, to visit facilities currently using Axolotl's software. This opportunity allowed attendees to experience first hand the impact electronic medical records has on the delivery of safer and more efficient health care.

"We're pleased Axolotl's advanced healthcare technology will be part of our efforts to create a healthier Nebraska," said Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy, a NeHII board member. "Healthcare providers across Nebraska will be able to securely exchange information via this new Web-based platform."

NeHII and Axolotl are excited to partner with one another to deliver a Health Information Exchange which will improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare for Nebraska. With NeHII's devotion to their mission of providing Nebraska a system for the secure exchange and use of health information and Axolotl's position as the country's leading HIE technology vendor, this win-win relationship will benefit all residents of Nebraska.

Several stakeholders from the Omaha area will participate in the pilot phase of the development due to begin the fourth quarter of this year. Following suc-

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Successful completion of the pilot program, the Health Information Exchange will be made available across the state of Nebraska through a phased rollout.

July looks to be no less busy as work continues on contract negotiations with Axolotl, Web site development, continued planning for the pilot to secure all necessary stakeholders, and final details on the business plan.

National News

DEA issues proposed regulations on controlled substances

The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) published proposed regulations on June 27, 2008 that would provide physicians and other authorized prescribers with the option of issuing electronic prescriptions for controlled substances. These regulations would also permit pharmacies to receive, dispense, and archive these electronic prescriptions. The agency is seeking public comment on the proposed regulations. Any member of the public wishing to submit comments may do so by mail or electronically on or before September 25, 2008.

These regulations provide pharmacies, hospitals, and practitioners with the ability to use modern technology for controlled substance prescriptions while maintaining the closed system of controls on controlled substances dispensing; additionally, the proposed regulations would reduce paperwork for DEA registrants who prescribe or dispense controlled substances and have the potential to reduce prescription forgery.

The proposed regulations would also have the potential to reduce the number of prescription errors caused by illegible handwriting and misunderstood oral prescriptions. Moreover, they would help both pharmacies and hospitals to integrate prescription records into other medical records more directly, which would increase efficiency, and would reduce the amount of time patients spend waiting to have their prescriptions filled. Further, with these regulations DEA seeks to ensure that patients, prescribers, and pharmacists know that the person who wrote the prescription is who that person claims to be, and that the medication being dispensed by the pharmacist and received by the patient is the medication that was prescribed.

You can search the Federal Register for the proposed regulations at

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/advanced.html> .

Check "Proposed Rules" under Section and search by issue date 6/27/2008.

RxHub, SureScripts consolidate operations

RxHub and SureScripts will consolidate their operations to form a secure nationwide network for e-prescriptions and the exchange of health information. RxHub was founded in 2001 by the nation's three largest PBMs - CVS Caremark Corporation, Express Scripts, Inc. and Medco Health Solutions, Inc.. SureScripts was formed in 2001 by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) and the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)..

Additional information is available at

<http://www.surescriptsrxhub.com/> .

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Minnesota announces plan for EHRs

Minnesota has published the New Minnesota State-wide Implementation Plan for Interoperable EHRs. The plan:

- Identifies a model for achieving the 2015 interoperable EHR mandate.
- Provides practical guidance to providers and provider organizations on what they can do now to overcome barriers and accelerate progress in adopting interoperable EHRs.
- Provides links to tested planning and implementation tools.

The plan includes two guides:

- Guide 1: Addressing Common Barriers to EHR Adoption - A Practical Guide
- Guide 2: e-Health Standards Recommended for Use in Minnesota.

This plan is available for download at the Minnesota e-Health Initiative Web site:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/e-health/> under Announcements.

Groups endorse PHR framework

Dossia, Google, Intuit, Microsoft, and WebMD joined prominent health care providers, health insurers, and consumer and privacy groups in endorsing a set of practices for new Internet services that help consumers track and improve their health. The framework defines a set of practices that can help protect personal information and enhance consumer participation in online personal health records.

The framework developed by the Markle-operated Connecting for Health public-private collaboration

includes four overviews and 14 specific technology and policy approaches for consumers to access health services, to obtain and control copies of health information about them, to authorize the sharing of their information with others, and sound privacy and security practices.

The Markle Foundation also released a survey indicating that four in five U.S. adults believe that electronic personal health records (PHRs) would help people:

- Check for errors in their medical records (87 percent).
- Track health-related expenses (87 percent).
- Avoid duplicated tests and procedures (86 percent).
- Keep their doctors informed of their health status (86 percent).
- Move more easily from doctor to doctor (86 percent).
- Manage the health of loved ones (82 percent).
- Get treatments tailored to health needs. (81 percent).
- Manage their own health and lifestyle (79 percent).

The survey of 1,580 U.S. adults – conducted by Knowledge Networks between May 13 and 22, 2008 – matched the demographic proportions of the general U.S. adult population (including online and offline households), and had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percent. It was designed by Columbia University Professor Emeritus Alan F. Westin, a leading authority in privacy research.

To download or view brief descriptions of the Common Framework go to <http://www.connectingforhealth.org/phti/#guide>.

The full consumer survey is available at <http://www.connectingforhealth.org/resources/ResearchBrief-200806.pdf>.

CVS Caremark and Microsoft partner

CVS Caremark and Microsoft Corp. announced plans on June 26, 2008 to collaborate to offer consumer health care solutions to help people manage their health and wellness, and control their health information using Microsoft HealthVault.

Through this collaboration, consumers will be able to download a comprehensive list of prescriptions filled at CVS/pharmacy or through CVS Caremark by mail as well as save copies of their health records, including laboratory tests, from visits to Minute-Clinic, the retail-based health clinic subsidiary of CVS Caremark, into their individual HealthVault record. It will also be possible to upload personal health data, such as blood pressure or glucometer readings, from HealthVault into CVS Caremark applications for use by pharmacists or nurse practitioners in providing care. These services are expected to be available to consumers beginning in the fall of 2008.

This publication was edited by Ryan McCabe and Anne Byers. To receive *eHealth News from the NITC eHealth Council*, please contact Anne Byers, by calling 402 471-3805 or e-mailing anne.byers@nebraska.gov.

Check out the eHealth Clearinghouse at www.nitc.ne.gov/eHc/clearing/.

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