

# Nebraska eHealth Initiatives

## RHIOs

- ◆ **Western Nebraska Health Information Exchange.** Partners in Western Nebraska have completed a plan and are beginning to implement a regional health information exchange. Partial funding has been provided through an AHRQ planning grant, an AHRQ implementation grant, and a HRSA Rural Network Development grant.
- ◆ **Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NeHII).** The Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NeHII) is a collaboration of Nebraska health care organizations, hospitals, physicians, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The mission of the NeHII Collaborative is to provide Nebraska a system for the secure exchange and use of health information. NeHII is raising funds for start-up operations.
- ◆ **Southeast Nebraska Behavioral Health Information Network.** A \$200,000 one-year planning grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) in 2004 enabled Region V Behavioral Health Care Providers to develop a plan to develop a health information technology infrastructure that will result in standards-based data sharing and lead to measurable and sustainable improvements in patient safety and quality of care in the region. Since the completion of the planning grant, SNBHIN partners have continued to meet and are making progress toward establishing a RHIO.

## EMR/EHR/PHR Initiatives

- ◆ **Nebraska Medical Association Project.** The Nebraska Medical Association Foundation received a two-year grant for \$499,604 from the Physicians Foundation for Health Systems Excellence to work with small and medium-sized physician practices on electronic health records and chronic disease management registries.
- ◆ **UNMC Web-based Personal Health Record.** The University of Nebraska Medical Center is establishing a Web-based Personal Health Record (PHR) program for all its students. In contrast with medical records that are owned by doctors or hospitals, a PHR is owned by the patient and is part of a national effort to involve patients in their own health care.
- ◆ **The Rural Comprehensive Care Network of Nebraska.** The Rural Comprehensive Care Network of Nebraska received a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration's Rural Health Network Development Program in 2006. The grant will help physicians, hospitals, and pharmacies in the network communicate via electronic health records.

- ◆ **Nebraska Registry Partnership.** The project is a partnership of the Nebraska Office of Rural Health, Diabetes Prevention and Control Program—HHSS, Cardiovascular Health Program—HHSS, CIMRO of Nebraska, Nebraska Rural Health Association, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Through the project, DocSite implementation in pilot clinics has been completed.

## **Telehealth**

- ◆ **Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network.** The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network is an interactive video and data network that provides integration among nearly all of the hospitals and public health departments in the state. The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network is unrivaled in scope by any other state telehealth network.

## **Privacy and Security**

- ◆ **Creighton Health Services Research Program/HISPC Steering Committee.** With funding from an AHRQ grant, researchers at the Creighton Health Services Research Program are involved in survey research to inform the HISPC Committee about security and privacy issues from different stakeholders in the state.

# **RHIOs**

## **Western Nebraska Health Information Exchange**

Partners in Western Nebraska are well on their way to implementing a regional health information exchange (RHIO). A planning grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) in 2004 enabled partners to begin the planning process.

Partners in the original Western Nebraska Health Information Exchange include:

- The Rural Nebraska Healthcare Network
  - Box Butte General Hospital, Alliance
  - Chadron Community Hospital, Chadron
  - Garden County Health Services, Oshkosh
  - Gordon Memorial Hospital, Gordon
  - Kimball Health Services, Kimball
  - Memorial Health Center, Sidney
  - Morrill County Community Hospital, Bridgeport
  - Perkins County Health Services, Grant
  - Regional West Medical Center, Scottsbluff
- Panhandle Public Health District
- Region I Mental Health and Substance Abuse

In 2005, a three-year implementation grant from AHRQ was awarded. A HRSA Rural Network Development Grant has provided the opportunity to expand this regional work to Panhandle Community Services Health Center, private physician's clinics, long term care, and others. University of Nebraska Public Policy Center is the Principle Investigator for the AHRQ grant, providing research and consultation on the project design.

In September 2005, the partners completed a plan for implementing a health information exchange “that will enable providers, patients, and others to share information, communicate orders and results, support evidence-based decision-making, streamline public health disease surveillance and reporting, and enable data management for non-clinical purposes (e.g., billing, quality management).”

The plan includes short-term goals to establish

- A health information exchange system that will provide current information, from all hospitals and rural health clinics, at the point of care; and
- An operational entity that will provide the sustainable infrastructure necessary to support regional health information exchange and common developments in the electronic health records, and
- To enhance capacity to develop electronic medical records in the region's critical access hospitals and rural health clinics

Training sessions with nationally recognized trainers for becoming a Certified Professional in Health Information Technology (CPHIT) and Certified Professional in Electronic Health Records (CPEHR) have been held in the Panhandle. As a result, the Panhandle has the highest number of certified professionals in health information technology (HIT) and electronic health records (EHR) per capita in the United States.

Training has also been offered in project management, vendor selection, process mapping, and skill training. A training academy developed in partnership with Western Nebraska Community College now offers training for college credit at participating hospitals. Over 45 user skill training sessions have been offered in the past six months.

Partners are using their own resources to fund electronic health record systems. Some partners already had systems in place. Others are in the process of selecting or implementing systems. Regional West Medical Center operates a Web portal for physicians on staff to have full access to patient information and has recently allowed other physicians to view lab results and x-rays of patients. The Western Nebraska Health Information Exchange is completing an intensive survey of partner systems and is developing an RFP for a regional sharing solution.

The Western Nebraska Health Information Exchange is working on a business plan to sustain the project. Work has also been done with a legal firm to develop users' agreements and protocols for compliance with privacy and security standards under the Health Information Privacy and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

The Western Nebraska Health Information Exchange is addressing public health in a unique way. The entity has developed a reporting matrix which includes the non-mandatory and mandatory reporting that hospitals and clinics do. Partners have met with state agencies to discuss how the regional health information exchange being developed can interface with state systems.

## **Links**

**Community Health Connections: Western Nebraska Health Information Exchange**  
<http://www.comhealth.org/>

**Panhandle Regional Health Information Exchange Plan, Sept. 2005**  
[http://www.ppc.nebraska.edu/program\\_areas/documents/PanhandleRegHealth%20InfoExchPlan-10-2005.pdf](http://www.ppc.nebraska.edu/program_areas/documents/PanhandleRegHealth%20InfoExchPlan-10-2005.pdf)

**Western Nebraska looks to health IT to improve patient safety and quality of care**  
[http://extension.unl.edu/tangents/tangents\\_WNHIE3-07.htm](http://extension.unl.edu/tangents/tangents_WNHIE3-07.htm)

## **NeHII**

The Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NeHII) is a collaboration of Nebraska health care organizations, hospitals, physicians, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The mission of the NeHII Collaborative is to provide Nebraska a system for the secure exchange and use of health information.

### **Goals:**

- Sharing timely and accurate patient health care information in a secure environment to improve patient care and reduce health care costs
- Seamless, electronic medical system driven by patients who give doctors access to information that will enhance quality care delivery

Organizations currently active in the process include:

### **Hospitals**

- Nebraska Medical Center
- Alegent Health
- BryanLGH Health System
- Regional West Medical Center
- Nebraska Methodist Hospital
- Good Samaritan Health System
- Creighton University Medical Center
- St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center
- Children's Hospital
- Faith Regional Health Services
- Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital
- Great Plains Regional Medical Center
- Fremont Area Medical Center
- Saint Frances Medical Center
- Columbus Community Hospital

### **Physicians**

### **Pharmacies**

- Nebraska Pharmacy Association
- Kohll's Pharmacy
- Walgreens

### **Insurers**

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska

### **Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network**

## **Southeast Nebraska Behavioral Health Information Network**

A \$200,000 one-year planning grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) in 2004 enabled Region V Behavioral Health Care Providers to develop a plan to develop a health information technology infrastructure that will result in standards-based data sharing and lead to measurable and sustainable improvements in patient safety and quality of care in the region. Partners in the original planning project include Heartland Health Alliance, Blue Valley Mental Health Center, Region V Systems, BryanLGH Medical Center and Health Partners Initiative. Fifteen organizations providing behavioral health care in Southeast Nebraska have been identified as potential participants in the Southeast Nebraska Behavioral Health Information Network (SNBHIN—pronounced SIN bin).

Since the completion of the planning grant, SNBHIN partners have continued to meet and are making progress toward establishing a RHIO. SNBHIN was incorporated in September and is applying for tax-exempt status. Fifteen organizations providing behavioral health care in Southeast Nebraska have been identified as potential participants in the planned information network. An RFP has been issued and the group is looking at submitting proposals for additional funding.

## **EMR/EHR/PHR Initiatives**

### **Nebraska Medical Association**

The Nebraska Medical Association Foundation received a two-year grant for \$499,604 from the Physicians Foundation for Health Systems Excellence to work with small and medium-sized physician practices on electronic health records and chronic disease management registries.

This grant will establish a baseline to determine the status of health information technology utilization in Nebraska practices. A technical, operational and educational needs assessment survey of Nebraska practices will be developed to determine current utilization of electronic health records and their future needs. Activities will include the development of educational materials and assessment tools for self-evaluation of health IT for practices currently not using a system. Additionally a series of educational workshops will take place across the state to improve the standard of knowledge pertaining to health IT.

Following the workshops, a change management tool will be developed to identify needs specific to Nebraska and will include the creation of a virtual center clearinghouse for workshop participants to continue their work and exchange information.

## **UNMC Web-based Personal Health Record**

The University of Nebraska Medical Center is establishing a Web-based Personal Health Record (PHR) program for all its students. In contrast with medical records that are owned by doctors or hospitals, a PHR is owned by the patient and is part of a national effort to involve patients in their own health care.

Under the program, students will access a password-secured Web site that provides the electronic format for creation of their health record. An Omaha based company, HDC 4Point Dynamics, is partnering with UNMC to operate and maintain the system which was originally proposed by the Center for Biosecurity at UNMC.

A key feature of the system is that each student will have control of his/her own PHR. They will establish and maintain their personal and family health information, and the individual can decide if their PHR can be accessed by health care professionals and for what period of time. The approach facilitates the transportation of essential health information when the student transitions to the private sector or continues education at another institution, as commonly occurs when medical students begin their residency training.

The PHR contains nine different information categories – demographics and insurance, related parties and emergency contacts, patient and family history (chronic conditions), lifestyle/habits/directives, allergies, immunizations, medications, providers, and hospital/clinic visit information and vitals.

The PHR is accessible from any place at any time using a browser with Internet connection. Health care providers can access with patient permission and update their relevant medical and visit information. In the near future, students, providers and laboratories will be able to enter lab results. The system will identify the source of the new data.

### **Links**

HDC 4Point Dynamics  
<http://www.hdc4point.com/>

HDC 4Point Dynamics Health Portal  
<https://www.phr4me.com/>

## **Rural Comprehensive Care Network of Nebraska**

The Rural Comprehensive Care Network of Nebraska received a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration's Rural Health Network Development Program in 2006. The Rural Comprehensive Care Network of Nebraska is a non-profit organization consisting of the South East Rural Physician Alliance and Blue River Valley Health Care Network. The grant will help physicians, hospitals, and pharmacies in the network communicate via electronic health records. Subgrants are being

made to physicians, hospitals, and pharmacies to help them adopt electronic health records. The Rural Comprehensive Care Network of Nebraska is developing classes for physicians and staff. UNMC has been contracted to conduct a return on investment study. CIMRO of Nebraska is working with clinics to do an assessment, planning and workflow analysis. ICE Technologies is also working with clinics and hospitals.

## **Nebraska Registry Partnership**

The project is a partnership of the Nebraska Office of Rural Health, Diabetes Prevention and Control Program—HHSS, Cardiovascular Health Program—HHSS, CIMRO of Nebraska, Nebraska Rural Health Association, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

DocSite implementation in pilot clinics has been completed. Clinics participating include:

- Friend Medical Clinic
- Franklin County Memorial Hospital (FCMH)
  - FCMH—Pool Clinic, Franklin
  - FCMH—Main Street Clinic, Red Cloud
  - FCMH—Hildreth Clinic
  - FCMH—Campbell Clinic
- Alliance
  - Sandhills Family Center (HRSA)
  - Cow Country Health Center, Hyannis
  - Hemmingford Clinic
- Tilden Medical Clinic

## **Telehealth**

### **Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network**

The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network is an interactive video and data network that provides integration among nearly all of the hospitals and public health departments in the state. The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network is unrivaled in scope by any other state telehealth network. The Telehealth Governing Board is providing leadership for the network. The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth network is a collaborative effort of many entities including:

- Nebraska Hospital Association
- Nebraska hospitals
- Nebraska Public Health Departments
- University of Nebraska Medical Center
- Universal Service Administrative Company

- University of Nebraska System
- Nebraska Information Network
- Nebraska telecommunications companies
- Central Nebraska Area Health Education Center
- Northern Nebraska Area Health Education Center
- Nebraska Panhandle Area Health Education Center
- Nebraska Medical Association
- Nebraska State Government
  - Lieutenant Governor's Office
  - Nebraska Public Service Commission
  - Nebraska Division of Communications
  - Nebraska Health and Human Services System
    - Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Section
    - Office of Rural Health
  - Nebraska Information Technology Commission
  - Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer
  - Nebraska Department of Education
- Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission

A total of 8,388 participants used videoconferencing from a hospital or public health department site, saving over \$1,662,000 in travel time and over \$1,645,000 in mileage costs. Over 800 educational programs were presented; over 550 meetings were held; and 687 patient consults were performed using the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network in 2006.

## **Links**

**Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network**

<http://www.netelehealth.org/>

## **Privacy and Security**

### **Creighton Health Services Research Program/HISPC Steering Committee**

With funding from an AHRQ grant, researchers at the Creighton Health Services Research Program are involved in survey research to inform the HISPC Committee about security and privacy issues from different stakeholders in the state.

## **Links**

**Creighton Health Services Research Program**

<http://chrp.creighton.edu/>

Report 1: Survey of Health/Licensure/Certification and Facilities Oversight Board Managers  
[http://chrp.creighton.edu/Documents/HISPC\\_Report\\_1.pdf](http://chrp.creighton.edu/Documents/HISPC_Report_1.pdf)

Report 2: Survey of Health Professions Organizations Leadership  
[http://chrp.creighton.edu/Documents/HISPC\\_Report\\_2.pdf](http://chrp.creighton.edu/Documents/HISPC_Report_2.pdf)

Report 3: Study of Consumer View Points on Health Information, Security, and Privacy  
(Coming Soon)