

EHEALTH COUNCIL
May 29, 2008
1:30 PM CT – 4:30 CT
University of Nebraska Technology Park
4701 Innovation Drive, Lincoln, Nebraska

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Berens, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Rural Health
Pat Darnell, Alt. for Vivianne Chaumont
Senator Annette Dubas, Nebraska Legislature
Marie Woodhead, representing Jeff Fortenberry, phone
Dr. Kimberly Galt, Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Profession, phone
Jamie Barbee, Alt. for Kimberly Galt
Alice Henneman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County
Ron Hoffman Jr., Mutual of Omaha
Harold Krueger, Western Nebraska Health Information Exchange and Chadron Community Hospital, phone
Ken Lawonn, NeHII and Alegent Health, phone
David Lawton, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Human Services
Marsha Morien, Alt. for Dr. Keith Mueller
Nancy Shank, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center
September Stone, Nebraska Health Care Association
Dr. Delane Wycoff, Pathology Services, PC, phone

Staff and Guests: Anne Byers, Community Information Technology Manager, Ryan McCabe, eHealth intern, Cindy Kadavy, Nebraska Medicaid, Joyce Beck, Thayer County Health Services, Bill Bivin, Alt. for September Stone

MEMBERS ABSENT: Susan Courtney, Blue Cross Blue Shield; Joni Cover, Nebraska Pharmacists Association; Dan Griess, Box Butte General Hospital, Alliance; Donna Hammock, Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network and St. Elizabeth Foundation; Steve Henderson, Office of the CIO; C.J. Johnson, Southeast Nebraska Behavioral Health Information Network and Region V Systems; Jim Krieger, Gallup; Jeff Kuhr, Three Rivers Public Health Department; Kay Oestmann, Southeast District Health Department; John Roberts, Nebraska Rural Health Association

ROLL CALL, NOTICE OF POSTING OF AGENDA, NOTICE OF NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT POSTING

Kimberly Galt called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. There were 13 members total, 5 of whom were on the phone. Not enough members were present in person for a quorum. The meeting announcement was posted on the NITC Web site and on the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on May 14, 2008. The agenda was posted on May 23, 2008. A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available on the wall.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS/REPORTS

Update – HISPC

David Lawton gave an update on the HISPC Collaborative project. He mentioned the project is looking for partners to participate in environmental scans. The scans will help determine where RHIOs are in terms of privacy and security. He also informed the Council that he would be working with Thayer County Health Services on the HISPC Collaborative project.

Update – Matching Client Data Discussion

The discussions of May 13, 2008 on Matching Client Data concluded that it was premature to discuss RHIO to RHIO exchange at the time. RHIO representatives wanted to focus on getting their RHIOs up and running. Marsha Morien commented that everyone at the meeting was open to future discussions.

Senator Annette Dubas arrived at 1:50 p.m.

SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE (SENHIE) PRESENTATION

Joyce Beck, CEO, Thayer County Health Services, gave a presentation on their CAH/FLEX HIT Grant. Thayer County Health Services received the \$1.6 million grant for full implementation of Electronic Health Records at their critical access hospital. The Southeast Nebraska Health Information exchange is the first initiative in the state to exchange health data. The system connects Thayer County Health Services in Hebron, five rural health clinics, a home health agency, a nursing home and an assisted living facility, several GMS units, two pharmacies, and St. Elizabeth Regional Health System in Lincoln. Their goals are to be totally paperless within 18 months, improve all communication lines, address safety and security of clinical information, provide continual care, and empower the patient. Ms. Beck expressed the importance of continuing technology education, an open culture, and positive people in implementing change. Input of end user is critical to the success of the project.

PRIORITIZATION OF PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING FROM THE COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY FUND

The Council discussed prioritizing the projects for recommendation to the NITC. The amount requested for all projects was \$388,414. Anne Byers informed the Council that there was \$277,439 available for funding, leaving a difference of \$110,975. Kimberly Galt thought it would be best to give a quick overview of each proposal, open to inputs and critiques, and then do an unofficial vote to prioritize.

Anne Byers gave an overview for two of the projects: [Health Information Security and Privacy Consumer Education](#) and [Health Information Privacy and Security Web Site](#). Members agreed that these two proposals were low-risk and most likely to receive funding. Marsha Morien voiced her concern about the requested amount of funding being enough for the Web site. In an unofficial vote, all members were in favor of projects 6 & 7.

Nancy Shank gave a quick description of the [Western HIE Implementation proposal](#). Most of the funding would go toward capital investment. In an unofficial vote, a majority of members were in favor, Dennis Berens-opposed, Nancy Shank abstained.

No members were present to overview the [Behavioral HIE Network Development project](#). Kimberly Galt informed the Council that they have received a HRSA grant. Other comments were directed to specific details of the proposal, including the nature of the patient and their privacy and security. Most of the funding for this project would be for a server. Marsha Morien said that Keith Mueller thought the goals were well-stated, but links to information used were not well established. No unofficial vote was taken.

Senator Annette Dubas departed at 3:15 p.m.

Ken Lawonn updated the Council on the [NeHII proposal](#). NeHII has developed a preliminary business model. NeHII is partnering with UNO to plan and work on costs of the project. So far, the project has been totally privately funded. He expressed that this project is the highest risk, but most in need. No unofficial vote was taken.

Kimberly Galt gave an overview of the [Public Input on Sharing Electronic Health Records](#). David Lawton cross-referenced this project with the Health Information Privacy and Security Web site proposal. He thought these two proposals could work closely with each on consumer involvement. No unofficial vote was taken.

September Stone and Cindy Kadavy presented their [Medicaid Electronic Billing for Long-Term Care proposal](#). Dennis Berens expressed his concern for the future MMIS system implementation and how this proposal is contributing or building towards it.

Due to lack of time, Kimberly Galt moved to present the idea of asking members rank proposals. Ken Lawonn seconded. Results would be sent back to Anne Byers and Ryan McCabe, organized and given to the Council's co-chairs and staff members for final recommendation.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Kimberly Galt said that she has been invited to give a presentation on the eHealth Council at the Nebraska Rural Health Association meeting in September.

NEXT MEETING DATE

There was no date presented.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.