

## **EHEALTH COUNCIL**

October 5, 2011 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. noon CT  
Mahoney State Park, Peter Kiewit Lodge  
Ashland, Nebraska

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Wende Baker  
Joni Cover  
Sue Medinger  
Laura Meyers  
Marsha Morien  
Rita Parris  
Greg Schieke  
Lianne Stevens  
September Stone  
Delane Wycoff

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Joyce Beck, Susan Courtney, Vivianne Chaumont, Joel Dougherty; Senator Annette Dubas, Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, Kimberly Galt, Donna Hammack, Alice Henneman, Harold Krueger, Ken Lawonn, Kay Oestmann, John Roberts, Nancy Shank, and Steve Urosevich

**Guests and Staff:** Anne Byers, Lori Lopez Urdiales, Sarah Briggs and Chris Henkenius

### **ROLL CALL NOTICE OF POSTING OF AGENDA NOTICE OF NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT POSTING**

Ms. Morien called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Nine members were present. There was not a quorum to vote on action items. The meeting proceeded with informational items. The meeting notice was posted to the NITC and Public Meeting websites on October 3, 2011. The agenda was posted on October 3, 2011.

### **APPROVAL OF [APRIL 1, 2011 MINUTES](#)**

Approval of the minutes was tabled until a quorum was present or until the next meeting.

Ms. Cover arrived to the meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **UPDATES**

**[The Federal Health IT Strategic Plan: 2011-2015](#)**. This was provided as an informational item to members. Ms. Byers pointed out that there is a greater emphasis on the following:

- Long term care, behavioral health and emergency settings
- Continued focus on privacy
- Streamlining licensure applications
- Patient safety
- Reporting adverse events

**[State HIE Progress Report](#)**. The most recent progress report for the State HIE Cooperative Agreement was submitted on September 30, 2012.

## RELATED INITIATIVES

**NeHII—Chris Henkenius.** Fifteen new hospitals have signed participation agreements with NeHII. Pharmacies are being added to NeHII as well. NeHII is implementing Direct which allows users to send health information via secure e-mail. Pathology Services in North Platte will pilot the use of Direct to send lab results. The fee for using Direct will be \$15/per person per month.

**eBHIN—Wende Baker.** In June, eBHIN went live with data entry and upload to Magellan. The feedback from users so far has been positive. Changing to electronic health records is a culture change, however. The project is currently working with 11 organizations and 15 private practices. A grant has been submitted which would allow eBHIN to expand services to Region I in the Nebraska Panhandle. Region 2 and Region 3 are considering connecting to EBHIN. Region 6 is also being approached to be a partner.

**Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network—Laura Meyers.** The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network is in its third year of a grant from the Office for the Advancement of Telemedicine. Units continue to be placed in physician offices. Many hospital emergency departments statewide are using telehealth. The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network is piloting the use of VIDYO. This system will allow iPad and iPhone end users to connect to the telehealth network. Max Thacker, University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) has just started using VIDYO. The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network is exploring the use of a fee structure. The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network does not currently charge user fees. Each hospital pays \$100/month for telecommunications charges.

**Medicaid--Sarah Briggs, DHHS Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care.** Under the Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program, states will distribute incentive payments to qualified Medicaid providers that adopt, implement or upgrade, and meaningfully use, certified EHR technology. Nebraska's draft [State Medicaid Health Information Technology Plan](#) (SMHP) is available on the State's Medicaid website. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requested additional information on Nebraska's SMHP. The additional information requested was sent to CMS last week. The incentive program cannot begin until the SMHP is approved. DHHS will determine the best launch date once the SMHP is approved.

**Wide River Technology Extension Center—Greg Schieke.** Wide River Technology Extension Center is in the "heart" of the work of its four-year grant. It is technically a two-year grant with a two-year renewal. The project must go through a biennial evaluation. The evaluation will occur in January. Evaluation criteria include the number of providers recruited and the number of go-live sites. Wide River Technology Extension Center clients have been pleased with the services provided. Clients have given Wide River Technology Extension an average score of 4.8 out of 5 on customer satisfaction surveys.

## UPDATES ON OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR (ONC) PRIORITY AREAS

**e-Prescribing/E-Prescribing Work Group.** E-Prescribing continues to grow in Nebraska. ONC provided [e-prescribing statistics](#) from data from Surescripts. There are now over 2,300 e-prescribers in Nebraska. Eighty-eight percent of community pharmacies in Nebraska accept e-prescriptions. Rusty Keith from Surescripts participated in a conference call with the E-Prescribing Work Group. The call was very informative. There were questions regarding whether or not Nebraska's laws and regulations allow for e-prescribing Schedule II drugs. The E-Prescribing Work Group worked with Wide River Technology Extension Center to plan a panel discussion with pharmacists and prescribers at Wide River Technology Extension Center's Meaningful Use Summit in Scottsbluff on August 24.

Ms. Baker left the meeting.

Lab reporting, exchange of summary care documents, and public health will be discussed at the next meeting.

## **BROADBAND UPDATES**

Members were reminded about the [Broadband Conference](#) to be held on November 1, 2011 at the Cornhusker Marriott in Lincoln, Nebraska.

## **IDENTIFICATION OF EVALUATION CRITERIA\***

ONC requires State HIE grantees to conduct an evaluation. Ms. Byers asked Council members what measures they would like included in the evaluation. A two-tier approach is proposed to evaluate the project's goals and objectives:

- Tier one will assess outcomes. Outcome measures will focus on how well Nebraska has developed a functioning eHealth environment with widespread participation by providers and consumers.
- Tier two will assess impact. Impact measures will focus on improvements in health care quality and efficiency.

State purchasing laws will be followed to contract with an evaluator. The State of Nebraska can contract with Nebraska public entities without issuing an RFP. If it is determined that a public entity is not qualified to conduct the evaluation, an RFP will need to be released.

Council members liked the two-tiered approach. Members discussed evaluating reductions in redundant lab testing. The rate of redundancy would be difficult to evaluate because doctors often order new lab tests to see if there is a change in the conditions of patients. Members suggested focusing on diagnostic radiology testing. Members suggested checking with ONC for measures being used by Beacon Communities. Members also suggested evaluating the value of HIE in emergency departments.

Ms. Byers will take the Council's input back to the work group to revise the document. Council approval was not needed to move the evaluation tool forward.

## **CONSUMER EDUCATION WEBSITE**

The State Cooperative Agreement includes funding for the development of a consumer education website. Members recommended using the funding for other another consumer-related activity.

## **ADJOURN**

With no further business, Ms. Morien adjourned the meeting at 11:45.

The meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Anne Byers of the Office of the CIO.