

eHealth News

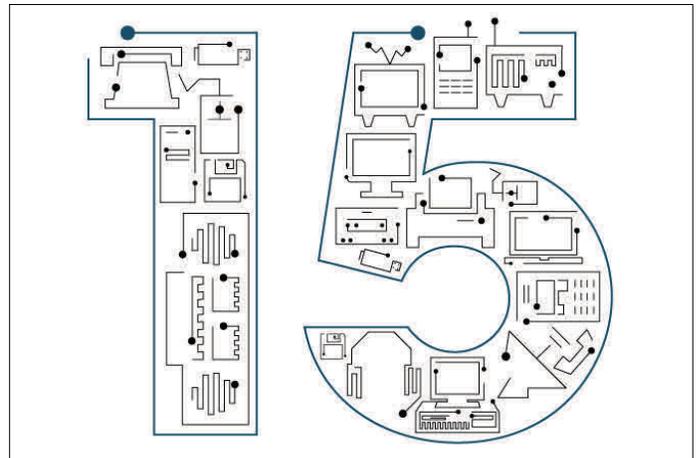
Contents

NITC celebrates 15 years	1
Nebraska eHealth plan updated	1
NeHII holds annual meeting	2
Public health use cases for NeHII identified	2
eBHIN continues to expand	2
Nebraska Medicaid program submits request for HIE funding, provides incentive payments	2
Nemaha County Hospital CEO testifies before U.S. Senate Finance Committee	3
ONC recognizes Boone County Health Center CIO	3
State HIE evaluation efforts underway	3
eHealth Metrics—Summer 2013	4
Sterling acquires Wide River TEC	7
Broadband conference planned Oct. 16-17	8

NITC celebrates 15 years

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) is celebrating 15 years of providing advice, strategic direction, and accountability on information technology investments .

The NITC has provided guidance to the Legislature on funding technology projects by reviewing 140 budget requests over the past 15 years. Additionally, 76 grants have been approved to support state government and community technology projects. The most important work of the NITC, however, is done by forming collaborative partnerships. Hundreds of individuals and dozens of organizations have been involved in the activities of the NITC. More information on the NITC’s collaborative projects is available at www.nitc.nebraska.gov.



Nebraska eHealth plan updated

On May 1, the eHealth Council approved an updated operational eHealth plan. The plan was submitted to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT on May 7. The plan includes updates to the privacy and security framework, sustainability plan, project management plan, evaluation plan and report, and metrics tracking program progress. The plans operational plan is available at www.nitc.nebraska.gov.

NeHII holds annual meeting

The NeHII Annual Meeting was held August 1, 2013 at the Elks Country Club in Columbus, NE. The meeting, hosted by Mike Hansen, CEO of Columbus Community Hospital, drew great interest from across the region with 115 attendees from Wyoming, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska. The meeting's keynote speakers included Dan Paoletti, CEO of Ohio Health Information Partnership; Marty Fattig, CEO Nemaha County Hospital, member of the HIT Policy Committee for Meaningful Use Workgroup; Shankar Rao, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Optum; Anne Byers, eHealth & Community Information Technology Manager, Nebraska Information Technology Commission; Michelle Hood, Administrator, NDHHS Office of Health Statistics; and Dr. Anne O'Keefe, Senior Epidemiologist, Douglas County Health Department. The meeting also included updates on notable NeHII activities and reports from the various NeHII committees and councils.

The NeHII HIT Visionary Award was presented to Dr. Harris Frankel, President of the NeHII Board of Directors. Dr. Frankel has been a major contributor and supporter of a state-wide health information exchange since 2005 when discussions first began. Kevin Conway, Vice President of the NeHII Board of Directors, was thrilled to recognize Dr. Frankel as an HIT Visionary and presented the award on behalf of the NeHII Board of Directors. "Dr. Frankel's commitment to NeHII and the continued development of health information technology in Nebraska has been key to NeHII and improving patient care for Nebraskans. Under his leadership, NeHII continues to further its mission and has set the standard for a health information exchange. We are truly thankful for his on-going leadership."

Deb Bass, Chief Executive Officer of NeHII, also commented, "One of the most rewarding results of the NeHII Annual Meeting is to see the progress made from one year to another, especially the challenges we faced and resolved over the past twelve months. NeHII's commitment to achieving sustainability remains foremost as the single most critical achievement we must accomplish by the end of this year. The plan we have in place to reach financial sustainability will enable us to achieve the most elusive factor most HIEs are facing in the next twelve months as government funding runs out. Thank you to all who attended and made the event such a success."

Public health use cases for NeHII identified

The Douglas County Health Department is using NeHII to verify reports of communicable diseases and manage tuberculosis cases. The NeHII Privacy & Security Committee has approved the following use cases:

- Public health case investigation of reportable conditions for use by public health disease investigators
- Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) development of case summaries for the Nebraska Child Death Review Team (CDRT) for use by public health nurses
- Tuberculosis disease investigation and case management for use by public health nurses

eBHIN continues to expand

eBHIN has continued to expand HIE deployment in Regions 5 (Southeast Nebraska) and 6 (Omaha Area). Currently there are 23 organizations and more than 400 users utilizing the Network applications. Total records in the system exceeded 45,000 through July with more than 15,500 in the health information exchange.

Integration efforts with NeHII continue with plans to embed the NeHII VHR in the eBHIN registration workflow. eBHIN has installed DIRECT applications and will be testing messaging use cases with medical providers, the Veterans Administration and Corrections.

Nebraska Medicaid program submits request for HIE funding, provides incentive payments

Nebraska Medicaid has been working with the two HIE organizations, e-BHIN and NEHII, to submit an IAPD update to request 90% federal matching funds. The IAPD was submitted to CMS on July 1, 2013, and included a plan to leverage the 90% funding.

The Medicaid EHR Incentive program was successfully implemented in May, 2012. Over 500 providers have received incentive payments including two-thirds of the hospitals. More than 600 providers have enrolled in Nebraska's Medicaid EHR Incentive program. Of the 93 hospitals in Nebraska, 46 have already achieved meaningful use. Nebraska has paid \$32.2 mil-

lion in incentive payments. Outreach efforts are underway to try to bring other providers on board.

Nemaha County Hospital CEO testifies before U.S. Senate Finance Committee

Marty Fattig, CEO of Nemaha County Hospital, testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance on Wednesday, July 24, 2013. The hearing focused on using health information technology to improve care. He testified that changes to the meaningful use program will need to be made to ensure small and rural hospitals are not left behind in the transition to Stage 2 of meaningful use. Due to their smaller size and volume as well as geographic isolation, rural hospitals face several barriers to implementing health IT, including financial constraints, workforce issues, and vendor readiness. The requirement that all health care providers install or upgrade to the 2014 edition certified EHR is a significant challenge for rural hospitals. His testimony included recommendations to provide more flexibility in the transition to Stage 2. His written testimony is available at

<http://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Fattig%20Testimony%20Final%20Copy.pdf>.



ONC recognizes Boone County Health Center CIO

ONC has recognized [28 practicing providers & office staff from 18 states](#) to serve as Health IT Fellows, including Boone county Health Center CIO, Emily Krohn. Health IT Fellows are clini-

cians, office staff and administrative office champions who have taken meaningful use and leveraged it to become more efficient and innovative in their practices.

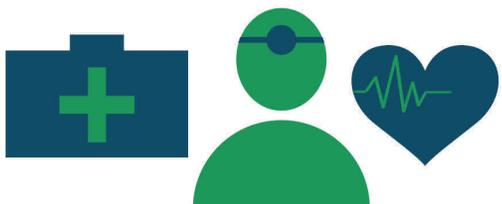
Ms. Emily Krohn is the Chief Information Officer at Boone County Health Center, a critical access hospital in Albion, Nebraska. Ms. Krohn has eight years of experience in health IT and is a Certified Professional in Health Information Technology and a Certified Professional in Electronic Health Records. Driven by her passion for health reform and rural health, Ms. Krohn supported Boone County Health Center in its path to meaningful use. She worked with a team of key stakeholders to track and measure progress towards meeting meaningful use. Through staff education, inter-departmental communication, and consistent messaging to providers, Ms. Krohn helped ensure providers were complying with all measures. With her support, Boone County Health Center attested to meaningful use stage 1 in February 2012.

State HIE evaluation efforts underway

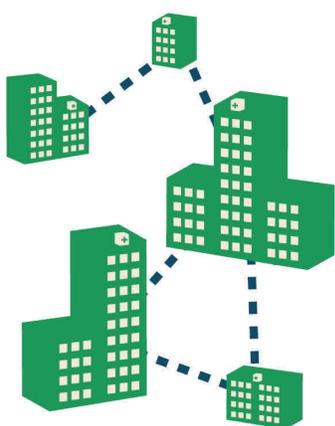
As part of the Office of the National Coordinator's evaluation plans, a team of researchers at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) are evaluating the Nebraska Health Information Exchange (HIE). The researchers have completed their evaluation of e-prescribing in ambulatory care settings and are preparing manuscript for publication. A statewide survey of health professionals was mailed to identify satisfaction, barriers to utilization, and areas of concern. Data analyses are ongoing. Also, consumer focus groups were conducted to determine the concerns and satisfaction with HIE. Lastly, the evaluation of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) is currently recruiting and training emergency room providers with the Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NeHII) for the evaluation of utility of HIE in the emergency room setting. Each of these projects addresses a key aspect of the national and state goal of determining the progress in developing more efficient data sharing in Nebraska.

eHealth Metrics

Summer 2013



The Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network is one of the most extensive telehealth networks in the country, connecting over 110 sites, including rural hospitals, regional medical centers, Omaha metropolitan hospitals, public health departments, and bioterrorism labs in Nebraska.

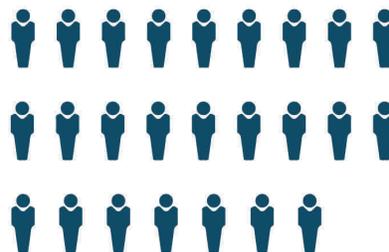


As of August 2013, NeHII has 26 hospitals participating.



50%⁺

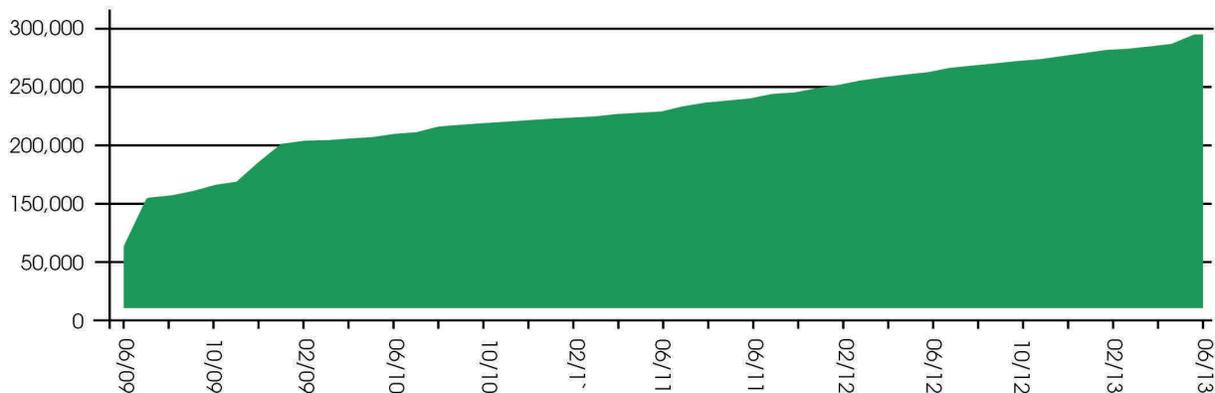
As of August 2013, over 50% of hospital beds in Nebraska are covered by NeHII.



= 100,000 people

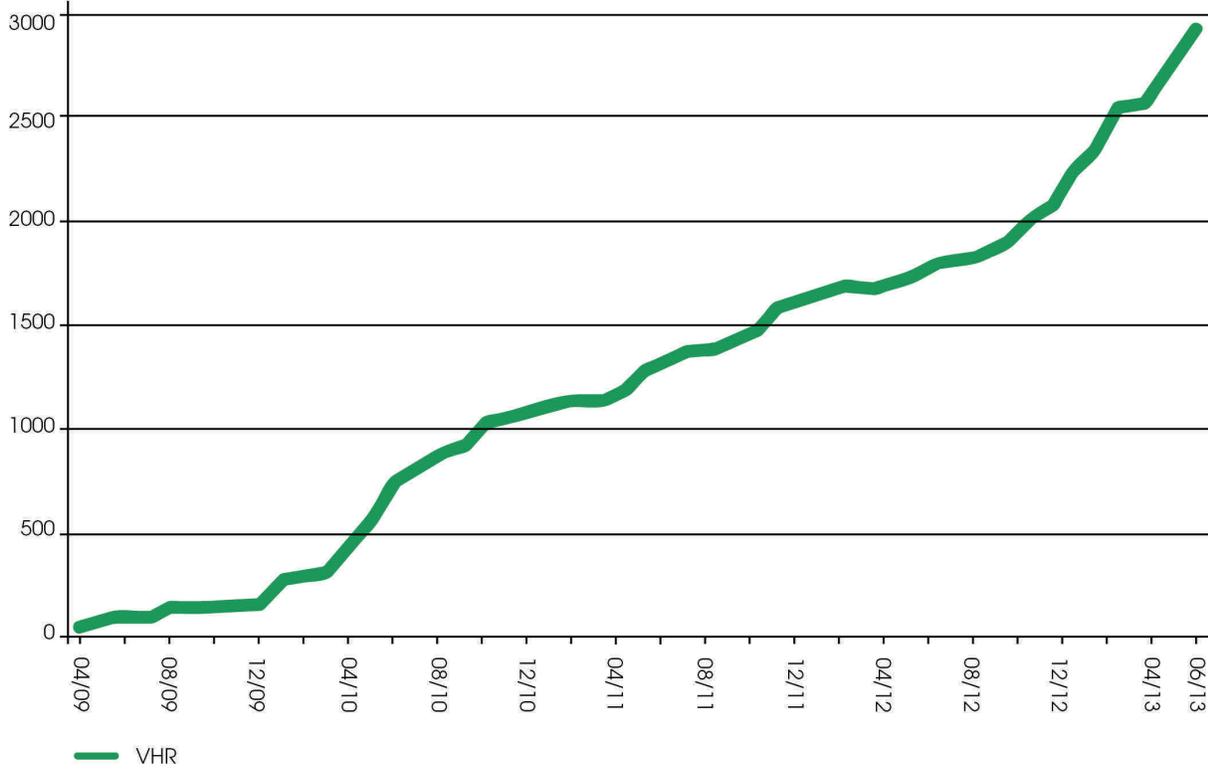
As of August 2013, the Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NeHII) has information on over 2.5 million individuals.

Consumers with Demographic Data



NeHII total users*

*Users include Mds, PAs, APRNs, MAs, and staff




3,400⁺
USERS

As of August 2013, the Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NeHII) has over 3,400 users.

95%

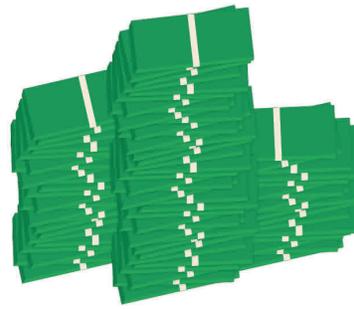
95% of Nebraska pharmacies accept E-Prescriptions.

1,151

As of July 2013, Wide River Technology Extension Center had signed up 1,151 primary care providers, with 1,075 providers at go-live and 461 providers attesting to Meaningful Use of electronic health records. Among the 56 Critical Access Hospitals working with Wide River TEC, 43 are at go-live with a certified EHR and 34 have attested to Meaningful Use of electronic health records.

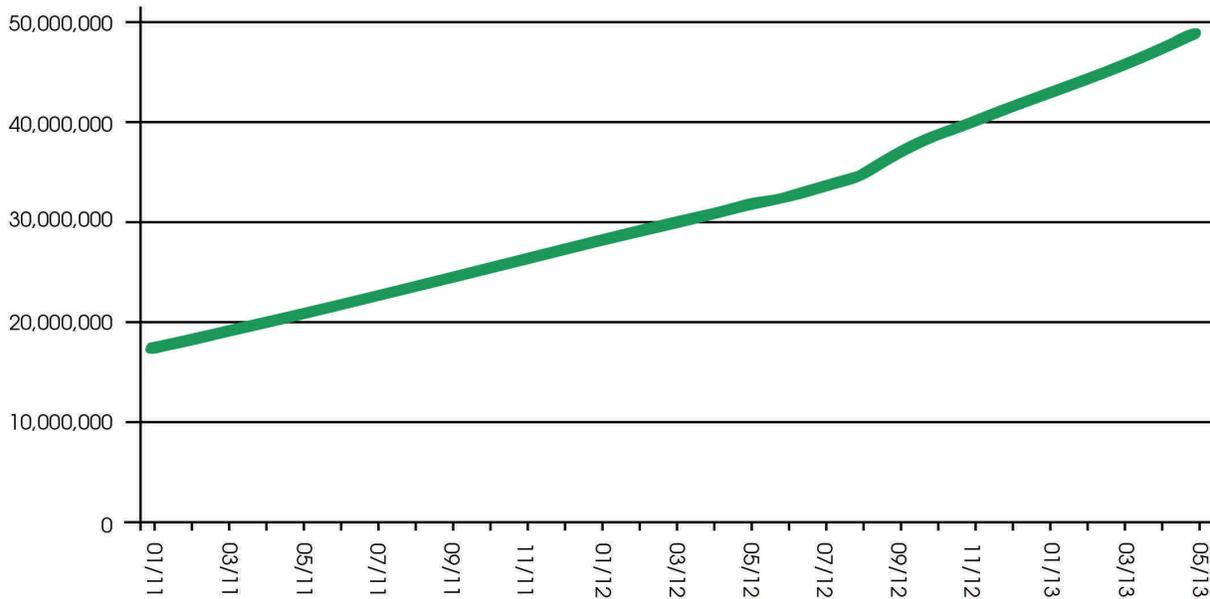
17th

Nebraska ranked 17th in E-Prescribing in 2012 by Surescripts.



As of mid-July 2012, Nebraska Medicaid EHR incentive payments had been made to 18 Eligible Hospitals and 58 Eligible Providers, totaling almost \$8 million.

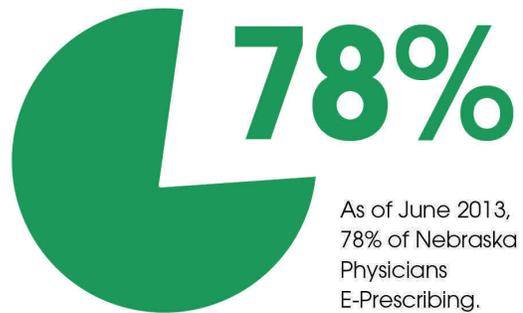
NeHII Number of Requests



384/23

USERS

As of June 2013, eBHIN has 384 users from 23 behavioral health organizations.



ments of Wide River TEC. Several key staff members of Wide River TEC will transition from CIMRO of Nebraska to Sterling, assuring continuity of services and knowledge of the health care environment, both within Nebraska and across the Midwest.

Broadband conference planned Oct. 16-17

The Broadband Connecting Nebraska Conference will be held Oct. 16-17, 2013 at the Younes Convention Center in Kearney. Keynote speakers include global futurist and author of *Jump the Curve: 50 Essential Strategies to Help your Company Stay Ahead of Emerging Technologies*. More information on the conference can be found at broadband.nebraska.gov.



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