

EHEALTH COUNCIL

March 5, 2010 1:30 PM CT – 4:00 PM CT

Lincoln: Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, 1800 N. 33rd, Board Rm., 1st Floor

Omaha: UNMC, McGoogan Library Room #8016A

MINUTES

Members Present

Wende Baker
Joyce Beck
Vivianne Chaumont,
Susan Courtney
Joni Cover
Donna Hammack
Steve Henderson
Alice Henneman
Jeff Kuhr
Ken Lawonn
Keith Mueller
Nancy Shank
Bill Bivin (alternate for September Stone)
Dr. Delane Wycoff

Lianne Stevens, Joel Dougherty and Greg Schieke were also in attendance.

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

Co-Chair, Keith Muller, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. There were 12 voting members present. A quorum existed to conduct official business. The meeting notice posted to the NITC and Public Meeting Website on Feb. 18, 2010. The meeting agenda was posted on March 1, 2010. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was available on the wall.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2009 MINUTES AND OCTOBER 2009 MINUTES

Mr. Henderson moved to approve the [August 14, 2009 minutes](#)* and [October 12, 2009 minutes](#) as presented. Ms. Courtney seconded. All were in favor. Motion was carried by unanimous “aye” voice votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

[MEMBERSHIP - NEW MEMBERS](#)

Ms. Shank moved to approve the slate of new members listed below:

- Steve Urosevich, Department of Corrections
- Lianne Stevens, The Nebraska Medical Center
- Sue Medinger, Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health
- Joel Dougherty, OneWorld Community Health Centers
- CIMRO of Nebraska/Wide River Technology Center

Ms. Chaumont seconded.

All were in favor. Motion was carried by unanimous “aye” voice votes.

MEMBERSHIP - MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Ms. Chaumont moved to approve the slate of membership renewals listed below:

- **Joni Cover, Nebraska Pharmacists Association**
- **Donna Hammack, Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network and St. Elizabeth Foundation**
- **Wende Baker, SNBHIN**
- **Kay Oestmann, Southeast District Health Department**
- **Susan Courtney, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska**
- **Alice Henneman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension**
- **Kimberly Galt, Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions**

Mr. Henderson seconded.

All were in favor. Motion was carried by unanimous “aye” voice votes.

ELECTION OF CO-CHAIR

Dan Griess has resigned from the eHealth Council. Lt. Governor Sheehy recommended that Dr. Wycoff serve as co-chair of the eHealth Council with Keith Mueller.

Ms. Courtney moved to elect Dr. Wycoff as the new eHealth Council co-chair. Ms. Chaumont seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

STATE HIE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT UPDATE

Anne Byers. Community I.T./eHealth Manager

The NITC/Office of the CIO has been in contact with the Office of the National Coordinator regarding the state’s application for the State HIE Cooperative Agreement program. The first round of awards was announced in February. Many of the states in the first round still need to do much of their planning.

WIDE RIVER HEALTH IT REGIONAL EXTENSION CENTER

(Click on link above for more detailed information)

Gregg Schieke, Director

The purpose of the Regional Extension Centers (RECs) is to furnish assistance, defined as

- education,
- outreach, and
- technical assistance

to help priority primary-care providers in their geographic service areas select, successfully implement and meaningfully use certified EHR technology to improve the quality and value of health care.

RECs will work cooperatively with other ONC ARRA programs such as

- State HIE Cooperative Agreement Program
- Community Colleges Consortia to Educate HIT Professionals
- Beacon Community Cooperative Agreement Program

An RFI will be released to assist with recommending EHR products. It is anticipated that there will be a wide range of products that health care providers can buy.

OPERATIONAL - PLAN UPDATES

Updates on WNHIE, SNBHIN, SENHIE and NeHII

WNHIE: Ms. Shank wanted it on record that she was not speaking officially on behalf of the exchange. At this point, the WNHIE has ceased operational activities.

SNBHIN: Ms. Baker reported that a contract with NextGen has been executed. The exchange is currently engaging in design work and planning activities. SNBHIN will be driven by patient “opt in”. Patient confidentiality will be protected. Bryan-LGH, Blue Valley Behavioral Health and CMHC (Community Mental Health Center) will participate in a pilot of the system.

SENHIE: Ms. Beck reported that the exchange is working on interoperability using the “Connect” software. SENHIE was able to connect to an exchange in California. At the national HIMSS Conference in Atlanta, Ms. Beck shared her real-life health information exchange experience.

NeHII: Mary Lanning Hospital in Hastings has connected to NeHII. Over 400 providers are using the system. The exchange is getting good traction on e-prescribing data and is working on effective pricing models for hospitals. Methods to expand the system across the state are being explored.

Since WNHIE and SENHIE have chosen not to connect to NeHII, the portion of funds originally allocated to them from the State HIE Cooperative Agreement funds will be allocated to NeHII for the development of statewide health information exchange.

Privacy and Security Meeting. Privacy and Security Officers from Nebraska’s health information exchanges, and representatives of the Attorney General’s Office and the Department of Health and Human Services met with Lt. Governor Sheehy to discuss health information security and privacy enforcement. They agreed to meet as needed.

LB 702 Update. In Nebraska, the release of health information is limited to no more than 180 days. This year Senator Gloor introduced LB 702 to remove this barrier. Several eHealth Council members testified in support of the bill. The Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys spoke against it. Alternative language was proposed which satisfied the concerns of the trial attorneys. LB 702 will be amended into LB 849. It should be heard on the floor soon.

Meaningful Use. The comment period for “meaningful use” ends March 14th. Many critical access hospitals may be challenged to meet all the requirements. Collaborative efforts may be needed to address the needs of critical access hospitals.

Connecting NeHII to Public Health. NeHII’s vendor, Axolotl, presented several models for connectivity. Axolotl has a third product for gateways throughout Nebraska. Immunizations, disease reporting, and syndromic surveillance are the initial areas of focus.

Ms. Beck left the meeting.

OPERATIONAL PLAN - PLAN SECTIONS AND DISCUSSION

There were no comments or recommendations on the following sections: [Introduction](#), [Privacy and Security](#), [Meaningful Use](#), [Finance](#), and [Coordination with ARRA-funded Programs](#). If members had comments after having more time to read the documents, they were encouraged to send them to Ms. Byers.

Meeting the needs of rural providers and next steps. It is important that the plan considers the needs of rural providers and FQHC’s (Federally Qualified Health Centers). Capital is a barrier for rural providers. There is lots of interest from primary providers the Medical Home Pilot Project. To be a medical home provider you must have EHR capabilities. Dave Palm was suggested as a contact.

Ms. Byers welcomed any ideas and feedback from council members regarding next steps.

ADJOURN

The next meeting will meet again in either May or June.

Mr. Henderson moved to adjourn. Mr. Kuhr seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried by unanimous “aye” voice votes.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Anne Byers of the Office of the CIO/NITC.