

**eHealth Council  
May 13, 2010  
9:00 AM CT to 12:00 noon CT  
University of Nebraska Technology Park  
4701 Innovation Drive, Lincoln, NE**

**Minutes**

**Members Present**

Wende Baker  
Joyce Beck  
Vivianne Chaumont  
Susan Courtney  
Joel Dougherty  
Senator Annette Dubas  
Donna Hammack  
Steve Henderson  
Harold Krueger  
Roger Mertz (alternate for Ken Lawonn)  
Sue Medinger  
Keith Mueller  
Lianne Stevens  
September Stone  
Steve Urosevich  
Delane Wycoff  
Greg Schieke

**Guests and Staff**

Anne Byers, Chris Henkenius, Deb Bass, Tom Pensabene, David Lawton, Lorelei Schieferdecker, Anna Turman, Kevin Conway, Todd Searls, Linda Stanley, Carey Peterson, Eric Henrichsen, Pat Darnell

**Roll Call, Notice of Posting of Agenda, Notice of Nebraska Open Meetings Act**

The meeting was called to order by eHealth Council co-chair, Keith Mueller. The meeting notice was posted to the Nebraska Public Meeting Website and the NITC website on March 26, 2010. The agenda was posted on May 5, 2010. A copy of the Nebraska Public Meeting Act was available. Fifteen members were present at roll call.

**Approval of March 5, 2010 Minutes**

Dr. Wycoff moved to approve the March 5, 2010 minutes. Steve Henderson approved. All were in favor. Motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Public Comments**

Quests introduced themselves and were given the opportunity to provide public comment. There was no public comment.

**Updates**

**NeHII**--Chris Henkenius and Deb Bass provided an update on NeHII's activities. A recent fact sheet was distributed. Over 1.5 million patients have information in the system. Over 500 physicians are participating in NeHII. The number of physicians participating continues to grow. Eighty-three requests for new user IDs were received last week. Creighton and Great Plains Regional Medical Center are in the process of connecting to NeHII. Five critical access hospitals intend to connect to NeHII this summer. Deb Bass mentioned that NeHII is working with other states to privacy policies with other states. NeHII's annual meeting will be held July 29 in Hastings.

**SNBHIN**—Wende Baker reported that SNBHIN has been working with vendors and providers to plan SNBHIN's implementation.

**SENHIE**—Joyce Beck reported that SENHIE has many projects underway, including working with BryanLGH on teletrauma, working with St. Elizabeth and telestroke, working with September Stone on connecting to long term care facilities, and working with Dean Cole on providing video from ambulances to the emergency room.

**Rural Health Care Network/WNHIE**—Harold Krueger shared information on the Rural Nebraska Healthcare Network (RNHN) fiber network. Utilizing federal funding under the Rural Health Care Pilot Program of the Federal Communications Commission, in conjunction with funding provided by Zayo Group, the RNHN will connect 9 primary care hospitals and dozens of affiliated clinics. The network has a planned completion date of fall 2011.

**Wide River Technology Extension Center**—Greg Schieke reported that Wide River TEC is staffing up. 18 staff members have been hired, including Todd Searls who will be the director. Dr. Bob Rauner will also assist Wide River TEC. Additional funding is available to provide services to critical access hospitals. Recipients of additional funding will be announced in June.

**State Medicaid HIT Plan**—Vivianne Chaumont reported that eight vendors submitted proposals to develop the State Medicaid HIT Plan. A vendor is expected to be on board by July. The plan should be submitted by Jan. 2011.

**State HIE Cooperative Agreement**- Anne Byers reported that much has been done on the State HIE Cooperative Agreement, including working on contracts, submitting ARRA reports, submitting a plan to complete the plan, and developing strategic and operational plans.

**State Health Policy Consortium**—Anne Byers and Deb Bass reported that the Office of the National Coordinator is sponsoring a program to help multi-state collaborative groups address privacy and security concerns. NeHII is interested in submitting a proposal to continue its work on sharing privacy and security policies.

**LB 849**—Anne Byers shared information on legislation to remove the 180 day limit on authorizations for the release of health information. Senator Gloor introduced LB 702 to remove this barrier. The language was amended to address concerns by the Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys. LB 702 was amended into LB 849 and signed into law this year.

#### **Metro Community College's Participation in the Community College Consortium Program—Tom Pensabene**

Tom Pensabene shared information on Metro Community College's new specialist diploma for incumbent employees. Twenty modules will be developed by another organization which received a grant for curriculum development. Courses will begin to roll out in August. Courses will be offered completely online. Instructor training will take place in August.

Training will be provided for the following:

- Practice workflow and information management redesign specialists;
- Clinician/practitioner consultants;
- Implementation support specialists;
- Implementation managers;
- Technical/software support staff; and
- Trainers.

Members interested in serving on an advisory group for the program were encouraged to contact Tom Pensabene.

## Office of the National Coordinator—David Lawton

David Lawton gave an overview of the Office of the National Coordinator's efforts to develop health information exchange. Members were invited to ask questions. David Lawton explained that NHIN Direct is a set of policies and procedures which can be used to exchange health information. State health information exchanges will likely offer additional value and services.

Lt. Governor Sheehy arrived and spoke to the group. He thanked members for their work and encouraged them to continue to work together to develop statewide health information exchange. He stressed the importance of ensuring health information security and privacy.

## Strategic eHealth Plan

Anne Byers stated that she had received two comments on the plans. Donna Hammack had asked about whether SENHIE and other eHealth initiatives which are not receiving funding from the State HIE Cooperative Agreement should be included in the operational plan. Anne Byers and Joyce Beck explained that the operational plan is focused on the implementation of the State HIE Cooperative Agreement. SENHIE and other efforts are included in the strategic plan. As the plan is revised annually, additional initiatives could be added to the strategic plan.

Anne Byers also passed out additional language on quality improvement suggested by Paul Plofchan, the Director of Government Relations and Public Affairs for Pfizer, Inc. The language could be inserted into page 14. The suggested section follows:

### Quality

Effective health information exchange will utilize the underlying technology to improve the health of all Nebraskan's while transforming health care delivery through the meaningful use of health information. The overall purpose is to provide quality outcomes as efficiently as possible. In its role as a facilitator of improved health care quality, the health information exchange enhances the use, effectiveness and, therefore, the *value* of the information. All investments in it must ultimately be linked to quality improvement and success of the endeavor determined by clear advancements in the safety, quality, efficiency and effectiveness of care.

As Nebraska's health information exchange evolves to support meaningful use it shall promote adherence to evidence-based care through the use of clinical decision support tools that are consensus-based, developed by expert entities, such as leading professional societies, and which target quality measures endorsed through a stakeholder consensus process, e.g. National Quality Forum (NQF).

Keith Mueller asked Council members to consider making a motion to adopt the strategic plan as written and with any subsequent revisions made to satisfy requirements of the Office of the National Coordinator. **Steve Henderson made a motion to adopt the strategic plan as written with any subsequent revisions made to satisfy requirements of the Office of the National Coordinator.**

**Dr. Wycoff seconded the motion.**

**There was no further discussion. The motion was approved 17-0. (Baker-yes; Beck-yes; Chaumont-yes; Courtney-yes; Dougherty-yes; Dubas-yes; Hammack-yes; Henderson-yes; Krueger-yes; Hertz (for Lawonn)-yes; Medinger-yes; Mueller-yes; Stevens-yes; Stone-yes; Urosevich-yes; Wycoff-yes; Schieke-yes.)**

Keith Mueller asked Council members to consider making a motion to adopt the operational plan as written and with any subsequent revisions made to satisfy requirements of the Office of the National Coordinator.

**Steve Henderson made a motion to adopt the operational plan as written with any subsequent revisions made to satisfy requirements of the Office of the National Coordinator.**

**Dr. Wycoff seconded the motion.**

Members discussed the operational plan. It was suggested to include language in the executive summary clarifying that the operational plan's focus is the implementation of the State HIE Cooperative Agreement program. Sue Medinger asked about information on NeHII's sustainability. Members recommended changing the headings in the second part of the table on page 63 from "Server Type" to "Non-Hospital Participants." Members also recommended that information on Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska's program to subsidize the annual fee for critical access hospitals be reworded.

Members discussed including the quality information suggested by Paul Plofchen. Members felt it could be included as an element in Nebraska's approach to establishing statewide HIE. The section begins on page 14. Members felt it should be placed after information on Integrating with Medicaid.

Dr. Wycoff suggested including version numbers in the footers of the plans.

Keith Mueller asked Steve Henderson and Dr. Wycoff if they were willing to accept a friendly amendment to incorporate these changes into the operational plan. Both Steve Henderson and Dr. Wycoff agreed.

**The motion was amended to adopt the operational plan incorporating changes discussed by the eHealth Council as well any subsequent revisions made to satisfy requirements of the Office of the National Coordinator.**

Discussion ended.

**The motion passed 16-0 with one member abstaining. (Baker-yes; Beck-yes; Chaumont-yes; Courtney-yes; Dougherty-yes; Dubas-yes; Hammack-yes; Henderson-yes; Krueger-yes; Hertz (for Lawonn)-yes; Medinger-yes; Mueller-yes; Stevens-yes; Stone-abstaining; Urosevich-yes; Wycoff-yes; Schieke-yes.)**

The meeting was adjourned.

*Minutes taken by Anne Byers, Nebraska Information Technology Commission/Office of the CIO*