

**EHEALTH COUNCIL**  
**August 13, 2008**  
**9:15 AM CT – 12:00 PM CT**  
**Governor's Residence**  
**1425 H Street, Lincoln, Nebraska**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Susan Courtney**, Blue Cross Blue Shield  
**Joni Cover**, Nebraska Pharmacists Association  
**Kimberly Galt**, Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Profession, phone  
**Dan Griess**, Box Butte General Hospital, Alliance  
**Steve Henderson**, Office of the CIO  
**C.J. Johnson**, Southeast Nebraska Behavioral Health Information Network and Region  
V Systems  
**Jeff Kuhr**, Three Rivers Public Health Department  
**David Lawton**, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Human Services  
**Keith Mueller**, UNMC College of Public Health  
**Kay Oestmann**, Southeast District Health Department  
**Nancy Shank**, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center  
**Dr. Delane Wycoff**, Pathology Services, PC  
**Henry Zach**, HDC 4Point Dynamics

**Staff and Guests:** Anne Byers, Community Information Technology Manager; Ryan McCabe, eHealth intern; Deb Bass, Bass and Associates; Chris Henkenius, Bass and Associates; Jamie Barbee, Alternate for Kimberly Galt

**Members Absent:** Dennis Berens, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Rural Health; Vivianne Chaumont, Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care, Department of Health and Human Services; Senator Annette Dubas; Congressman Jeff Fortenberry; Donna Hammack, Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network and St. Elizabeth Foundation; Alice Henneman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County; Ron Hoffman, Jr., Mutual of Omaha; Jim Krieger, Gallup; Harold Krueger, Western Nebraska Health Information Exchange and Chadron Community Hospital; Ken Lawonn, NeHII and Alegent Health; John Roberts, Nebraska Rural Health Association; September Stone, Nebraska Health Care Association

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

Keith Mueller called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m. There were 13 members present. The meeting announcement was posted on the NITC Web site and on the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on July 15, 2008. The agenda was posted on August 4, 2008. A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available on the back table.

**Dan Griess moved to approve the April 15, 2008 minutes as presented. Kim Galt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Courtney-Yes, Cover-Yes, Galt-Yes, Griess-**

**Yes, Henderson-Yes, Johnson-Yes, Kuhr-Yes, Lawton-Yes, Mueller-Yes, Oestmann-Yes, Shank-Yes, Wycoff-Yes, Zach-Yes. Motion carried.**

**Dan Griess moved to approve the April 15, 2008 minutes as presented. Kim Galt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Courtney-Yes, Cover-Yes, Galt-Yes, Griess-Yes, Henderson-Abstaining, Johnson-Abstaining, Kuhr-Yes, Lawton-Yes, Mueller-Yes, Oestmann-Yes, Shank-Yes, Wycoff-Yes, Zach-Yes. Motion carried.**

## **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **New Business/Reports**

**HISPC.** David Lawton gave an update on the HISPC 3 contract. He mentioned the project is working with nine states to help develop policies and standards to exchange data. Two major areas of focus are authentication and audit. There are seven months left on the contract with two positions to fill. Kim Galt commented that a lot of hard work has gone into the project.

## **Community Technology Fund Proposals**

**NeHII Proposal.** Deb Bass, Interim Executive Director of NeHII, gave an overview of the proposal, highlighting the proposal's goals, objectives, and expected beneficiaries. Conducting a pilot program is one of the objectives. NeHII will partner with the University of Nebraska-Omaha on this project. Kimberly Galt commented on the strength of the relationship between NeHII and the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Dr. Delane Wycoff expressed his approval of the chosen vendor, commenting that Grand Junction, Colorado has utilized the same vendor and has had notable results.

In efforts to accommodate scheduled panelists, Keith Mueller proposed moving on to the e-prescribing panel at 9:50 and discussing the Nebraska Public Policy Center proposal later. All agreed.

## **e-Prescribing Panel**

Chad Aicklen from SureScriptsRxHub gave his presentation, [Focus on Physician Adoption](#), via phone conference. Mr. Aicklen said one of the major barriers to successful implementation of e-prescribing in physician practices was a lack of confidence. He also listed the ability to "stick with it" as an important success characteristic.

Cara Campbell from the National Governors Association, gave a [presentation](#) on the State Alliance for e-Health and how the organization is promoting e-prescribing via phone. Ms. Campbell identified six ways in which states can further the adoption of eHealth technologies:

- ◆ Providing leadership and political support for e-health efforts;
- ◆ Addressing privacy and security;
- ◆ Promoting the use of standards-based, interoperable technology;
- ◆ Streamlining the licensure process to enable cross-state e-health;

- ◆ Engaging consumers to use HIT in managing their health and health care;
- ◆ Developing workforce and agency capacity for electronic HIE.

Mark Gorden from the eHealth Initiative spoke via phone about the DEA's proposed rule on e-prescribing controlled substances. The eHealth Initiative is using a consensus and collaborative approach in addressing the rule. The proposed rule sets out stringent requirements which may be difficult to meet.

Joni Cover of the Nebraska Pharmacist Association discussed some of the concerns pharmacists have about e-prescribing, including requirements to keep hard copies of prescriptions. Some other hurdles addressed were lack of incentives for pharmacists and issues with effective transmission.

Susan Courtney departed at 10:52 a.m.

### **Community Technology Fund Proposals (Continued)**

**Nebraska Public Policy Center Proposal.** Nancy Shank gave an overview of the revised proposal. Ms. Shank explained the proposal would solicit public input on health information exchange and related privacy and security concerns. Efforts will be made to tie the research to possible policy actions. She also mentioned a reduction in the dollar amount and number of deliberative discussions.

At 11:15 a.m. Keith Mueller asked members present who were directly related to the proposals to leave so further discussion could take place.

Members expressed their support for the revised NeHII proposal. Members felt that the revised proposal better defined the relationship between NeHII and UNO and presented a more positive business case. One area of concern mentioned was the difficulty in rolling out full implementation immediately after the conclusion of the pilot.

**Keith Mueller moved to approve the recommendation of the NeHII proposal to the NITC. The motion was approved by voice vote.**

Concern was expressed about the possible overlap between the Nebraska Public Policy Center proposal and work currently being done by the Creighton Health Services Research Program. The issue of barriers to public-private partnerships surfaced. Keith Mueller suggested discussing barriers to public-private partnerships further and would like to include Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy in these discussions. Keith Mueller suggested that the two proposals work cooperatively and survey different communities.

**Keith Mueller moved to approve the recommendation of the Nebraska Public Policy Center proposal with the stipulation that the Public Policy Center coordinate with the Creighton Health Services Research Program to avoid overlap and that the projects survey different communities. The motion was approved by voice vote.**

## **Moving Forward**

Keith Mueller asked the group to consider additional action items. Anne Byers explained that the Council's current action items are micro in nature. The Council should now also consider areas that are more macro in nature. Keith Mueller stated that the panel at today's meeting highlighted the need to address e-prescribing. Dan Griess suggested addressing PHRs and the relationship between PHRs and HIEs. Keith Mueller suggested forming workgroups for e-prescribing and PHRs. Membership of these workgroups will be discussed by the co-chairs via conference call. David Lawton also recommended Medicaid and public health data exchange as possible areas of future focus.

Next meeting's agenda will include discussion on e-prescribing, PHRs, and furthering public-private partnerships.

## **New Business**

Kim Galt and David Lawton announced they will be both guest speakers at upcoming conferences.

## **Next Meeting Date**

A meeting will be scheduled for October.

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.