

## **EHEALTH COUNCIL**

Nebraska Information Technology Commission

Tuesday, December 2, 2008, 1:30 p.m.

Video Conference Sites:

Lincoln: Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, 1800 North 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

Chadron: Chadron State College, Burkheiser Building-Room 109, 10<sup>th</sup> & Main Street

North Platte: Educational Service Unite 16, 1221 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Distance Learning Room

Omaha: UNMC, University Hospital-Room 3227

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Wende Baker (alternate for C.J. Johnson), Southeast Nebraska Behavioral Health Information Network

Dennis Berens, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Rural Health

Bill Biven, Alt. for September Stone, Nebraska Health Care Association

Joni Cover, Nebraska Pharmacists Association

Kimberly Galt, Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

Dan Griess, Box Butte General Hospital—Alliance

Donna Hammack, Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network and St. Elizabeth Foundation

Steve Henderson, Office of the CIO

Alice Henneman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension in Lancaster County

David Lawton, Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Assurance

Dr. Delane Wycoff, Pathology Services, PC

#### **Members Absent:**

Vivianne Chaumont, Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medicaid and Long Term

Care; Susan Courtney, Blue Cross/Blue Shield; Senator Annette Dubas, Nebraska Legislature;

Congressman Jeff Fortenberry; Ron Hoffman, Jr., Mutual of Omaha; Jim Krieger, Gallup; Harold Krueger,

Western Nebraska Health Information Exchange and Chadron Community Hospital; Jeff Kuhr, Three

Rivers Public Health Department-Fremont; Ken Lawonn, NeHII and Alegent Health; Dr. Keith Mueller,

UNMC College of Public Health; Kay Oestmann, Southeast District Health Department; John Roberts,

Nebraska Rural Health Association; Nancy Shank, Public Policy Center; and Henry Zach

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

Ms. Galt called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. Eleven (11) voting members were present at the time of roll. A quorum was not present to conduct official business. The meeting proceeded with informational items. The meeting announcement was posted on the NITC Web site and on the Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar on November 20, 2008. The agenda was posted on November 20, 2008.

#### **APPROVAL OF AUGUST 12, 2008 AND OCTOBER 2, 2008 MINUTES\***

Approval of the [August 13, 2008](#) and the [October 2, 2008](#) minutes were tabled.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **NET'S RESOURCES**

Rod Bates, General Manager, NET

The Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission's responsibility is to maintain all the telecommunications infrastructure across the state — transmitters, satellites, etc.— purchased with state funds. The Commission works with two non-profit organizations to do fundraising to purchase programming rights. Mr. Bates provided maps indicating equipment locations and uplinks across the state. NET has already completed the transition to digital transmission. The most current project for the Commission is the NET Public Media project. The purpose of this project is to archive historic information on Nebraska so that anyone can access the information from the NET server. The information can be used in classrooms or for research.

In 2011, NET's satellite contract will be expiring. A budget request has been submitted to hire a consultant to conduct an infrastructure study. It was recommended that an eHealth Council representative be invited to participate in these discussions and/or in the study. Mr. Bates entertained questions from Council members.

Ms. Galt announced that Dennis Berens was elected to serve as President of National Rural Health Association.

Due to time conflicts and members' need to leave early, the updates for e-Prescribing, Telehealth, HISPC, and PHR were moved up in the agenda.

#### **UPDATE – HISPC**

Dennis Berens

The Health Information Security and Privacy Committee (HISPC) has Education and Legal work groups. The Legal work group is completing a review of Nebraska's laws. A HISPC Web site is still under development. When it is operational, the web site will contain updated information from the small work groups. The national HISPC project will not be funded after March.

#### **UPDATE – TELEHEALTH**

Donna Hammack

A new policy on the appropriate use of the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network has been developed. Donna Hammack recommended that council members review the usage document and provide any input, suggestions or recommendations. The Public Service Commission has released a docket addressing timely reporting to get funding. Ms. Byers asked Ms. Hammack to inform her of any other dockets that would be pertinent to the Council.

#### **UPDATE - PHR WORK GROUP**

David L and Anne Byers

At the November PHR work group meeting, presentations on NeHII and the state's immunization registry were given. Much of the meeting focused on public health. It was suggested that another work group addressing public health may be needed. Mr. Lawton will develop a draft charge for the new work group.

**UPDATE - E-PRESCRIBING.** The E-Prescribing Work Group has had two meetings. Topics of discussion have included barriers, start up costs, and initial focus of the work group. In Nebraska, only 5% of health care providers are utilizing e-Prescribing. The next meeting of the Work Group is scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### **ACTION PLAN - REVIEW OF CURRENT ACTION PLAN AND DISCUSSION OF NEW ACTION ITEMS**

Ms. Galt asked members to send their input and ideas to Ms. Byers. Kim Galt, Joni Cover, Donna Hammack left the meeting. The remainder of the meeting was conducted by Ms. Byers.

#### **NEHII - Community Betterment through HIE- Engaging Community Stakeholders to Create a Sustainable, Large-Scale HIE**

Deb Bass and Chris Henkenius, Bass and Associates, Inc.

NeHII is a community betterment project. Significant milestones achieved thus far:

- June 2007: Project plan and charter
- Oct. 2007: RFP released
- Jan. 2008: RFP responses received
- March 2008: Vendor demos
- April 2008: Articles of Incorporation filed with election of officers
- June 2008: Santa Cruz site visit
- July 2008: LOI with Axolotl
- August 2008: [www.nehii.org](http://www.nehii.org) released
- Sept. 2008: CEO site visit to Rochester, NY RHIO
- Oct. 2008: Axolotl User Group presentation, business plan version 3.1

- Nov. 2008: Executed agreement with Axolotl & security/privacy policies finalized

Future milestones planned by NEHII:

- Exchange of test data – November 2008
- Ninety day pilot Omaha area – January to March 2009
- Pilot evaluation – April 2009
- State wide rollout – May 2009

Nebraska has taken the lead in this effort and has been recognized nationally. A short demonstration on the Axolotl software was provided.

#### **UPDATE - [PUBLIC POLICY CENTER DELIBERATIVE DISCUSSION](#)**

Tarik Abdel-Monem and Mitch Herrian, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center

The purpose of the online surveys and deliberative discussion was to document Nebraskans' knowledge of and attitudes towards electronic sharing of health information and, in particular, perspectives about legal and policy issues. Results are still being finalized. Preliminary results reflected a strong need for consumer education. The Deliberative Discussion and survey found:

- Respondents are fairly comfortable with EMR's and the electronic sharing of health records
- Respondents do have concerns about technology and security
- Respondents seem to favor an indirect role for government
- Perceptions of the government's role appears to be somewhat dependent upon experience with the health care industry
- Respondents tend to feel that EMR and electronic health exchange can make service more efficient
- Clear majority understand benefits of coordinated information sharing
- Concerns with technical issues include hackers and communication outages

#### **ADJOURN AND NEXT MEETING DATE**

Ms. Byers will poll members as to their availability. With no further business, Ms. Byers adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

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