

**eHEALTH COUNCIL**  
Thursday, March 31, 2022 1:30-3:30 p.m. CT  
Nebraska Hospital Association, Board Room  
and Via Videoconferencing  
3255 Salt Creek Circle  
Lincoln, NE 68504  
**MINUTES**

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

Mr. Fattig called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. There were eleven voting members present at the time of roll call. A quorum existed to conduct official business. Meeting notices were posted on the State of Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar and NITC websites on March 4, 2022. The meeting agenda was posted on March 24, 2022. The agenda included a link to Nebraska's public meeting law and was available on the table.

**Members Present:** Kevin Borchert, Kathy Cook, Marty Fattig, Paul Hakenkamp, Cindy Kadavy, Dr. Jim McClay, Francie McNeil, Ashley Newmyer, Dave Palm, Jina Ragland, and Brian Sterud

**Members Absent:** Gary Cochran, Jan Evans, Todd Searls, Anna Turman, Alison Wisco, and Linda Wittmuss.

**APPROVAL OF May 11, 2021 MINUTES\***

There were no corrections to the minutes. Cindy Kadavy moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Dave Palm seconded the motion.

**Roll call vote: Borchert-Yes; Cook-Yes; Fattig-Yes; Hakenkamp-Yes; Kadavy-Yes; McClay-Abstaining; McNeil-Abstaining; Newmyer-Yes; Palm-Yes; Ragland-Yes; and Sterud-Yes;. Results: Yes-9, No-0, and Abstaining-2. Motion carried.**

**MEMBERSHIP**

There were no new member nominations.

**CYNCHHEALTH UPDATE**

*Kevin Borchert and Paul Hakenkamp, CynchHealth*

CynchHealth is taking steps to improve the health data in Nebraska. Steps include:

- Moving to full Certified Qualified Entity status to obtain Medicare claims data for public reporting
- Recertifying National Committee for Quality Assurances (NCQA) Data Aggregator Validation (DAV) program and adding Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC's) to existing sites
- Writing a second Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) measure and moving the existing Transportation Measure to next level review
- Facilitating interoperability, Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), and regulatory reporting utilizing CynchHealth

**Pharmacy Informatics Accomplishments and Goals include:**

- Improved provisioning process with Salesforce
- Interoperability

- Sharing data with 20 states
- PDMP workflow integration into 36 hospitals and 4 pharmacies
  - 34% of Hospitals
  - 57.2% (3,972/6,944) Hospital beds
- Data integrity
- ONC Data Quality Framework patient matching project
- Education/learning opportunities

The My CyncHealth patient portal is currently in alpha testing. It will include COVID-19 vaccination information, medication history, lab results and immunization records. The patient portal will be available in English and Spanish. It will include social and community resources and referrals. The patient portal will be available to those 18 years and older.

CyncHealth is working HITrust certification and expects to receive it this fall.

BryanHealth and Faith Regional are in the process of connecting to CyncHealth.

## **NDHHS— USE OF HEALTH IT AND DATA FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE**

*Felicia Quintana-Zinn, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services*

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health is modernizing the public health data infrastructure to make it more accessible. Felicia Quintana-Zinn shared information from the Department of Health and Human Service’s COVID-19 response website at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>. Genomic surveillance and wastewater surveillance information is now available.

The Public Health Atlas <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Nebraska-Public-Health-Atlas.aspx> currently includes two dashboards:

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Dashboard
- Nebraska Hospital Capacity and Respiratory Illness Dashboard

The Data Atlas will be growing to show genomic and wastewater surveillance data. The Division of Public Health is also working to make interactive Information from vital records available.

## **LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID-19 RESPONSE**

*Kathy Cook, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department*

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department implemented the COVID-19 dashboard in March 2020. The health department also used news releases, press conferences and social media to keep the public informed. The risk dial was useful in communicating with the public. The health department worked with cultural centers for testing and getting information out. Information was translated into five or six languages.

An online request system for PPE was implemented. The department followed up with requestors to discuss options when supplies were not sufficient. Over 5.5 million items were distributed. The department also set-up an ultraviolet germicidal irradiation disinfection service for N95 masks.

The health department worked with our City of Lincoln Information Services staff to develop a comprehensive COVID-19 Vaccination Application which handled:

- Registration

- Scheduling vaccinations
- Check-in and administration of vaccine
- Upload to NESIIS
- Inventory management

Over 230,350 vaccinations were given at 461 clinics.

## **FEDERAL BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY FUNDING AND STATE BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT AND DIGITAL EQUITY PLANS**

*Anne Byers*

Both the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) included programs which could be used for broadband.

Nebraska will receive at least \$100 million for broadband infrastructure projects from the IIJA Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) Program. In order to receive the implementation funds, the State will need to submit a 5-year broadband deployment action plan. States will be required to engage stakeholders in the development of the plan. The Notice of Funding Opportunity will be available in mid-May.

Nebraska will receive \$300,000 to develop a state digital equity plan through the IIJA State Digital Equity Capacity Planning Grant Program. States which complete and submit a digital equity plan can apply for at least \$7.2 million over 5 years to distribute through a state digital equity grant program. States will be required to engage stakeholders in the development of the plan. The Notice of Funding Opportunity will be available in mid-June.

## **ROLE OF EHEALTH COUNCIL IN SUPPORTING DIGITAL EQUITY AND BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT**

Anne Byers suggested that the eHealth Council could play a role in the development of the state broadband deployment and digital equity plans. Internet access is needed for telehealth and health monitoring applications. It is also considered to be one of the social determinants of health. Members expressed interest in participating in the planning processes. Anne Byers said that she would send out information on the funding programs. When more information is available, Anne Byers will draft an action item for inclusion in the NITC's statewide technology plan and send to members via e-mail.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.