



eHealth Collaborative Newsletter

July 2009

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Collaborative Newsletter**

Upcoming Events

September 16 & 17 2009
eHealth Collaborative Fall Meeting
at the AmericInn in Chamberlain

September 23-25 2009
SDAHO's 83rd Annual Fall
Convention at the Sioux Falls
Convention Center

October 8, 2009
3rd Annual SD Health Information
Technology Summit

eHealth Collaborative Update

The eHealth Collaborative met via video conference on July 13 with locations in Pierre, Madison, Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Watertown, and Parkston. Members discussed the funding opportunity available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for broadband internet. A survey of provider needs related to broadband connection and hardware will be performed by the Center for Advancement of Health Information Technology (CAHIT) at Dakota State University in the upcoming month. This survey will be used to determine the needs of providers around SD so that an application may be submitted for ARRA Broadband funding in the second round. Additionally a provider survey is being prepared and will be sent out within the month that will be used to gauge our current needs of providers as well as be used to find areas that we have improved or found new hurdles since the 2006 assessment survey.

The members also heard updates from Kevin DeWald, Senior Director of the eHealth Collaborative on other ARRA funding opportunities coming and also updates on the work the Office of the National Coordinator and other committees are doing on finalizing the "meaningful use" criteria. Updates from the four advisory committees were done and information from CAHIT on a draft proposal through ARRA to become a Regional Extension Center was also featured at the meeting.

The next scheduled meeting of the Collaborative will be our semi-annual in person meeting in Chamberlain, SD at the AmericInn on September 16 and 17, 2009. Draft agendas and registration information will be posted to our website soon at

<http://www.eHealth.dsu.edu>.

Six Must-know Tips to Implement an Effective EHR by Lisa

Eramo - July 23, 2009 (HealthLeaders Media)

The incentive money is there to implement EHRs, but most HIM professionals and hospital executives know that deploying the technology is not as simple as pressing a button to go live.

Several industry experts have weighed in on this question: What is the single most important tip you could provide to someone regarding an effective EHR implementation? Their answers, summarized below, are quite telling.

Tip #1: Realize that the EHR will not solve your problems.

"EHRs do not necessarily fix poor processes, but rather, they tend to expose them. Create workflows that depict current scenarios and then revise those workflows once you've implemented the EHR. Use a team approach with IT, HIM, physicians, nurses, and other users of the EHR."

—Jean S. Clark, RHIA, CSHA, service line director for HIM at Roper St. Francis Healthcare in Charleston, SC

"One of the most significant mistakes a provider can make is to implement the EHR so it matches the current practices and workflow. This is a new tool, and providers must map how the business/medical practices must change to increase quality and efficiency before selecting a vendor. This will help them take advantage of the tools the technology has to offer and assist them in finding the right EHR that addresses the specific practice/business needs.

"As an example, one of my clients completed the business process analysis and examined what it needed to improve the practice. In this case, the EMR needed to accommodate sound prescription management, given the client operates a pain clinic. Without the initial assessment, the client would not have necessarily selected an EMR that suited its needs and allowed it to address quality and efficiency.

"The bottom line is it is generally far more important to complete the business analysis rather than jumping right to the implementation phase."

—Chris Apgar, CISSP, president of Apgar & Associates, LLC in Portland, OR

STAY INFORMED: Health care reform blog & Twitter

The Campaign for an American Solution is following all the latest developments on health care reform and sharing them with you through our blog and Twitter feed. We post the latest information from Capitol Hill, the White House, the stakeholder community, think tanks and the news media.

- Go to www.americanhealthsolution.org/blog/
- or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/CFAS2009.

Links

- *****HealthIT.hhs.gov*****
- **HIMSS STATE DASHBOARD**
- **eHealth Initiative**
- **AHIC**
American Health Information Community
- **AHRQ**
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- **HHS**
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
- **ONC**
Office of the National Coordinator
- **HITSP**
Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel
- **SLHIE**
State-level Health Information Exchange Consensus Project
- **NHIN**
National Health Information Network
- **HRSA**
Health Resources and Services Administration
- **NCSL**
National Conference on State Legislatures

To view **Tips #2-6** [click here](#).

Seven Ways to Get Value From Your EMR by Carrie Vaughan- July 14, 2009 (HealthLeaders Media)

EMRs were thrust once again into the national spotlight when the Obama administration committed nearly \$19 billion in stimulus funding for health IT as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The objective is to use electronic medical records to make the health system more efficient, safer for patients, and, ultimately, to reduce costs and improve quality.

While EMRs have the potential to meet those objectives, implementing the technology simply isn't enough. A lot depends on how organizations use the systems, which is why the HITECH Act calls for providers to be deemed "meaningful users" of certified EMR technology before they qualify for stimulus dollars. The legislation uses a carrot and stick approach. It offers providers incentive payments if they can meet the meaningful use criteria, however, organizations and physicians that are not meaningful users of HIT by 2015 will start incurring penalties.

Implementing the technology in a short timeline will be difficult for providers. But the real challenge will be getting value out of the systems put in place.

For the July issue of *HealthLeaders* magazine, I spoke to executives at four hospitals and health systems about how they were moving past implementation and getting value from their electronic medical records systems ("Where's the Value?").

Here are seven tips they shared with me.

1. Commit to the project. Organizations need to get EMR systems in place quickly, but done the right way. "That takes a good vendor, IT staff, capital, and management support," says Tom Smith, CIO, NorthShore University HealthSystem. "The key for us was having top management commit the organization to the project."

2. Let clinicians take the lead. Once these systems are in place, it is up to physician and hospital leaders to use the system in the best way. Include physicians and nurses in all phases of the project, such as vendor selection, workflow analysis, and implementation. "The role of IT is to get it implemented, make it reliable, and respond to user requests," says Smith.

To view **numbers 3-7** [click here](#).

Funding News

Statewide health record database could save billions (Marshfield News-Herald) (07/17)

Senate sets big jump for VA health IT budget (Gov't Health IT) (07/15)

ARRA raises the bar for health IT certification (Gov't Health IT) (07/15)

Governance News

AHRQ offers health IT evaluation guide (Gov't Health IT) (07/24)

New York RHIO aligns consent policy with state (Gov't Health IT) (07/24)

Standards panel aligns interoperability specs with ARRA (HC IT News) (07/24)

U.S. Senate to miss healthcare August deadline (reuters) (07/23)

Health IT panel recommends 31 IT measures (Federal Computer Week) (07/21)

Education News

Vermont's health reform focuses on quality, costs (USA Today) (07/28)

Kaiser shares lessons from 7-year switch to EHR system (HD MGMT) (08/01)

The doctor is in and logged on (LA Times) (07/20)

Health reform goals key for IT meaningful use (Gov't Health IT) (07/16)

Johns Hopkins University to offer informatics degree (Baltimore Journal) (07/17)

Medicare Eyes EHR Data for PQRI (HealthData MGMT) (07/13)

Technology News

Survey: Consumers Keen on Telemedicine (HealthData MGMT) (07/23)

Better Living Through Wireless Telehealth (eWeek.com) (07/22)

WebMD deploys mobile medical application for physicians (HC IT News) (07/21)

More News

Hilo Medical Center gets help implementing an EMR (HC IT News) (07/24)

NY Hospitals Exchange Data (HealthData MGMT) (07/22)

HIE development heats up in three states (Gov't Health IT) (07/08)