

Roadmap Joint Working Group Meeting
February 21, 2007
Recommendations for the Governor and Legislature
Draft

Background:

At the 3rd Annual HIT Summit held on October 23, 2006, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio was charged with implementation of the Next Steps identified in the Roadmap. In order to consolidate the work of multiple working groups addressing these issues in the ensuing months and focused on both the Roadmap and the Health Information Security and Privacy Consortium reports, two Joint Working Group Meetings were held, **January 16, 2007** which resulted in a set of draft recommendations, and **February 21, 2007** which resulted in further clarifications and discussion of the draft recommendations as summarized in the consensus documented below. These consolidated recommendations are to be made available to the governor and legislature, with the caveat that continued legal counsel is required moving forward. The consensus building process implemented over the past six months is expected to be the model for the state to continue an open, transparent, inclusive discussion to promote health information exchange in Ohio.

I. Organization

With the overall goal of improving quality of patient care through health information exchange with concomitant reductions in the cost of care, the state level quasi-governmental organization will facilitate statewide consistency around the implementation of national standards.¹ This state level quasi-governmental organization will provide a forum to discuss and develop model business practices for implementing national standards for interoperability through the use of working groups. This entity will coordinate multiple health information exchanges and develop systems to further centralize state-level data, other administrative data, and personal health record data. This group will use a consensus building process to promote open, transparent, inclusive discussion. It will have funded staff and resources to support the volunteer membership having broad representation from both stakeholder groups and regions². The state level quasi-governmental organization will provide the voice for Ohio in relation to national discussion on health information technology, exchange and funding opportunities.

¹ Any state level standards required would be the responsibility of state agencies. These agencies would work with the state level group and would themselves have the authority for enforcement and compliance, e.g. the Department of Insurance.

² The group recommended that pay to play was not a good model as it would defeat the open inclusive tenor that is sought to enhance collaboration.

II. Adoption

Publicly funded purchase of health information technology or exchange must support national standards for interoperability and clinical data exchange such as the Continuity of Care Record (CCR). The state level quasi-governmental organization will promote best practices and national standards through requirements articulated in state contracts and agreements. The organization will facilitate opportunities for training/education to support wide-spread understanding the standards. The state level quasi-governmental organization will facilitate an HIT-related workforce training and development plan and implementation process for both rural and urban areas. The organization will call for the state of Ohio to fund infrastructure to facilitate adoption and exchange (including connectivity).

III. Interoperability

The state level quasi-governmental organization will be the forum used to develop strategies for implementing consistent privacy and security business practices that will insure interoperability across systems. To improve the quality of healthcare, it is critical to have standards based exchange of data across provider organizations/regional information hubs that includes at a minimum complete information on medications and diagnoses at the point of care without requiring additional signed consent from patients beyond current HIPAA regulations. To provide the ongoing legal basis for such exchange state law on mental health, Medicaid and HIV may need to be amended or a master statute developed to facilitate comprehensive health information exchange. The state level quasi-governmental organization will facilitate a public education campaign plan and implementation process Ohio citizens focused on laws and business practices to both protect privacy and improve quality of care through health information exchange.

IV. Health Information Exchange (discussion incomplete)

The quasi-governmental state level organization will advocate for funds and coordinate administration of funding to facilitate adoption of health information technology and health information exchange to ensure all Ohioans including those that are not insured, have a comprehensive set of data available at point of care.

Basic electronic connectivity and accompanying infrastructure is a resource akin to a public utility, which should be provided, as an extension of Ohio's Third Frontier initiative, by the state in order to have basic tools in place to ensure access to health information exchange particularly to rural areas of the state.

Personal health records and payer health records are both models that need to be discussed.

Responsibilities for functions such as monitoring, auditing and enforcing compliance with state level practices and policies related to health information exchange cannot be the purview of the quasi-governmental state level organization. However, the organization should be involved in determining where this responsibility will lie to ensure ongoing accountability to the public regarding critical issues such as data management, integrity and exchange.

Meeting Participants

January 16, 2007 meeting:

Attending in person: Ayeshia Ellington, Philip Powers, Stephanie Jursek, Mary Crimmins, Kate Cauley, Doug Alt, Bill Mitchin, David Barber, Megan Smith, Bob Campbell, Lynn Giljahn, Ron Hall, Emily Paveni, Tony Shaffer, Bill Hayes
By telephone: Margie White, Mike McGill, Nancy Gillette, Amy Leopard, Keith Hepp, Pamela Coyle-Toerner, Denny Mclean, Ron Fahy, Lee Daley, Gordon Wong, Debbie Bahnsen

February 21, 2007 meeting:

Attending in person: Mary Crimmins, Jim Skidmore, Bill Mitchin, Bill Hayes, Philip Powers, Stephanie Jursek, Anthony Shaffer, Kate Cauley, Lynn Giljahn, Bob Campbell, Hubert Wirtz, Fred Richards, Ayeshia Ellington, Jim Skidmore, Dennis Swartzlander
By telephone: Rob Fahy, Bethany Ricketts, Megan Smith, Wendy Pestrue, Michele Schuster, Janice Franke, Amy Leopard, Giny Harshey-Meade, Nancy Gillette, Bob Steffel, Brian Keaton