

October 22, 2012

**To:** NITC Commissioners  
**From:** Anne Byers  
**Subject:** eHealth Council Report

## **eHealth Council New Members**

The eHealth Council has three new member nominations:

- Jenifer Roberts-Johnson
- Carol Brandl
- Marty Fattig

Their bios are included in the meeting documents. We will be asking you to approve their nominations.

## **eHealth Council IT Project Reviews**

The eHealth Council met on Oct. 19 to make recommendations on IT projects. Their recommendations are included in the summary document.

## **State HIE Cooperative Agreement Update**

### **Overview**

On March 15, 2010, the Nebraska Information Technology Commission/Office of the CIO received \$6.8 million in funding from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT's State HIE Cooperative Agreement program. Subrecipients include NeHII (\$4.8 million), the Electronic Behavioral Health Information Network (eBHIN, \$1.1 million), and the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network (\$73,620). The UNMC College of Public Health is serving as the external evaluator.

### **NeHII adds physicians, hospitals**

**NeHII Implementation Status.** NeHII continues to add physicians, health care providers, and hospitals. Over 2,000 physicians and health care providers are using NeHII to access patient health information, with over 150 physicians signing participation agreements in the first quarter of 2012, 70 in the second quarter, and 131 in the third quarter. Regional West Medical Center, Columbus Community Hospital, Sidney Regional Medical Center joined NeHII in 2012. Additionally, York General Hospital, Avera St.

Anthony's Hospital (O'Neil), Avera Creighton Hospital, Providence Medical Center (Wayne), and Cass County Health System (Atlantic, IA) have begun the implementation process to join NeHII. Other participating health systems and hospitals include Alegent Health, Children's Hospital and Medical Center, Methodist Health System, The Nebraska Medical Center, Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital (Hastings), Creighton University Medical Center, Great Plains Regional Medical Center (North Platte), Nebraska Spine Hospital, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska.

**Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Functionality.** In 2011, Governor Heineman signed LB 237 which authorized the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to collaborate with NeHII to establish a prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP). NeHII's functionality allows physicians to view a patient's medication history and other clinical information through NeHII's Virtual Health Record, enabling physicians to more safely prescribe controlled substances.

The MITRE organization is working with NeHII, Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital, EPOWERdoc and the State Public Health team to implement a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program pilot with Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital using single sign-on functionality between the EHR and HIE to signal possible drug seeking activities to physicians. The pilot is continuing to progress, overcoming obstacles with exchanging the SAML token and the project is moving to the testing phase.

Alegent Health, COPIC and NeHII sponsored a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program continuing education program on October 8th, 2012 at the McAuley Center on Alegent Health's campus. The program's goal was to provide physicians with tools to identify and manage potential drug seekers in the clinic and ED settings. One hundred seventeen providers attended the event to hear speakers from the Drug Enforcement Agency, emergency department, pain clinics and family practices share their experiences in managing potential drug seekers. COPIC and the Nebraska Medical Association are also sponsoring one-day programs in October on "Facts, Fiction, and Reality: A Multidisciplinary Look at the Use, Abuse, and Diversion of Prescription Drugs in Nebraska." Deb Bass and Anne Dworak will be presenting on the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program during these seminars.

**Payer Access Pilot.** The direct payer access pilot with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska kicked off on October 4<sup>th</sup>. The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska pilot participant/users have been trained and will be completing a survey each time they access NeHII to track pilot value measures. The date filter is working correctly and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska users are excited to start using the tool to support the gathering of information more efficient and make their jobs easier. NeHII has documented the primary and secondary audit process and it has been approved by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska.

**Immunization Registry.** NeHII and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health have been working to exchange data between NeHII and the State's immunization registry (NESIIS). Bidirectional exchange between NeHII and NESIIS is expected to be operational in the fourth quarter of 2012.

**Consumer Campaign.** NeHII has launched a new consumer campaign using Connect the "Docs" as the theme. The campaign includes:

- A consumer website (<http://www.connectnebraska.net/>),
- Youtube video (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLqi7-jD4N8>),
- Consumer brochure, and
- Public service announcements.

### **eBHIN HIE goes live**

The Electronic Behavioral Health Information Network (eBHIN) has gone live with its health information exchange functionality in Region 5 in Southeast Nebraska. eBHIN is one of the nation’s first health information exchanges focusing on the exchange of behavioral health information. As of Sept. 17, ten out of the fifteen Region 5 sites had begun using the health information exchange functionality. Sites in Region 1 in the Panhandle and Region 6 in the Omaha area will begin going live with the health information exchange functionality as early as November 2012. Regions 2, 3 & 4 have received a planning grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to determine the resources needed to participate. These regions will consider participation based on costs and logistics identified on the planning process.

eBHIN provides shared record exchange across treatment settings, closed loop referrals, wait list management and interim services tracking, medication reconciliation, and aggregate reporting at provider, region and state levels. eBHIN is also working with NeHII to utilize Direct secure messaging to exchange information—with patient consent—between behavioral health and medical providers.

### **Desk Audit**

The Office of the National Coordinator has completed a desk review of the State HIE Cooperative Agreement. The report states: “Overall, it appears that the Nebraska Department of Administrative Services is managing funds in compliance with Federal regulations and its organization’s policies and procedures. As seen in the report, there are instances where the Nebraska Department of Administrative Services can improve upon its policies.”

### **State HIE Cooperative Agreement Expenditures to Date**

|              | <b>Expended</b>       | <b>Allocated</b>      | <b>%<br/>Expended</b> |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| NeHII        | \$4,806,074.71        | \$4,898,275.00        | 98%                   |
| State/NITC   | \$99,155.71           | \$157,075.00          | 63%                   |
| Eval/UNMC    | \$45,458.39           | \$269,435.00          | 17%                   |
| eBHIN        | \$855,472.57          | \$1,112,275.00        | 77%                   |
| Pub Health   | \$59,500.22           | \$326,500.00          | 18%                   |
| Telehealth   | \$42,431.42           | \$73,620.00           | 58%                   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$5,908,093.02</b> | <b>\$6,837,180.00</b> | <b>86%</b>            |

## Office of the National Coordinator Recognizes Nebraska

The Office of the National Coordinator recently recognized Nebraska as a leader in query-based exchange as part of their Grantee Recognition Program.

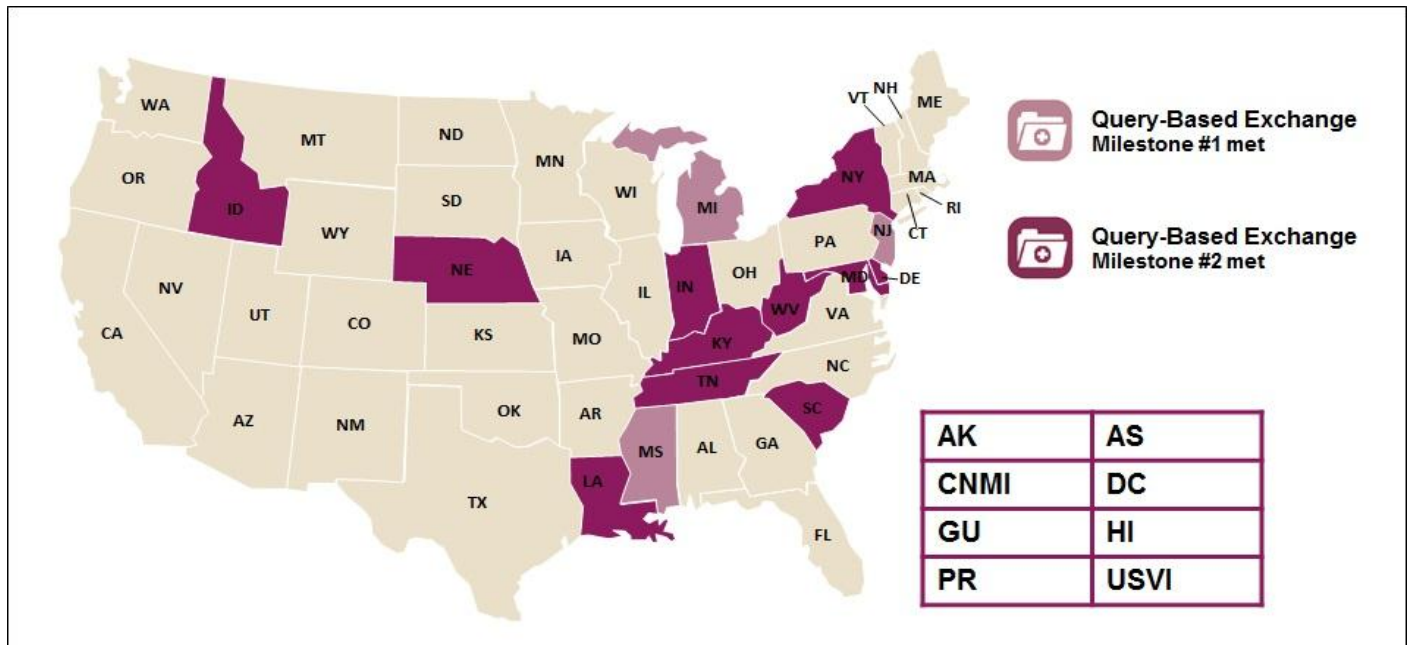
### Query-Based Exchange



*Milestone #1: Individual users enabled for query-based exchange\*\**



*Milestone #2: Individual users enabled for query-based exchange\*\**



Milestone #1 for measuring progress was set using the REC target numbers listed in Appendix D of [ONC PIN 2](#). Milestone #2 is double Milestone #1, i.e. twice the REC target number listed in Appendix D.

You can view the entire list at <http://statehieresources.org/grantee-recognition-program>.