

November 15, 2007

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

eHealth Council Meeting and Newsletter. The eHealth Council will meet on Dec. 10, 2007 from 1:30 to 4:30. The Council will continue to hear presentations on Nebraska eHealth initiatives and will begin to develop a plan of work to address their charge. This plan of work will be incorporated into the Statewide Technology Plan. The eHealth Council has started a monthly newsletter to keep stakeholders informed of key developments in eHealth in Nebraska and in the United States.

Health Information Security and Privacy. David Lawton and I attended a national health information security and privacy conference in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 1-2. Nebraska is participating in a nine-state proposal to develop and test standards for business practices related to health information security and privacy. Three initiatives in Nebraska are interested in participating in the project. The nine-state collaborative will receive feedback from RTI and the Office of the National Coordinator in early December. Through the proposal, Nebraska may receive funding to support the efforts of the Nebraska Health Information Security and Privacy Committee.

New Grants. The Nebraska Office of Rural Health was awarded a grant through the FLEX Critical Access Hospital Health Information Technology Network Implementation Grant program. The project will implement a sustainable interoperable health information technology in Thayer County/Hebron, Nebraska and surrounding communities in Nebraska and Kansas.

Two Nebraska hospital systems and one South Dakota hospital system serving residents of Nebraska received USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants. In Nebraska, Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk received \$149,435, Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation of Kearney received \$116,952, and Avera Health of Sioux Falls, SD received \$488,354.

Other Meetings. David Lawton gave a presentation at the NGA State Alliance for eHealth Health Information Communication and Data Exchange Taskforce meeting on Nov. 16. David Lawton and I will be attending the Colorado/DHHS Region VII Health IT Symposium on Dec. 3-4. Twelve states will be presenting information on their Health IT initiatives. David will be presenting information on Nebraska's eHealth Initiatives.