

April 2008

www.nitc.ne.gov

eHealth News from the NITC eHealth Council

Contents

Nebraska News

- NeHII reaches significant milestones 1
- Technology helps mother, baby bond 2
- eHealth Council will meet April 15 2
- Nebraska HISPC will meet April 22 2
- David Lawton appointed to NGA State Alliance for eHealth Taskforce 2
- Ryan McCabe joins NITC as eHealth intern 2

National News

- Project proposes HIT definitions 2
- Webinar demonstrates privacy tool 3
- Interoperable identity management essential to success of HIE 3
- Kansas City starts employer-sponsored HIE 4
- Louisville HIE surveys consumers on health record banking 4
- Survey examines consumer perceptions of health IT 4
- Briefing highlights state health IT efforts 4

Nebraska News

NeHII reaches significant milestones

This past October, the Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NeHII) reached a major milestone in its multi-year plan to implement a statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE) with the release of a Request for Proposal (RFP). In late March NeHII began a series of vendor demonstrations to review and evaluate proposed solutions for the statewide HIE implementation. The next step in that process is vendor negotiation and selection, to begin immediately.

In addition, the NeHII collaborative has been carefully crafting a successful business plan for the management of the collaborative, including the development of a governance plan. The setup of the corporation, complete with by-laws, Articles of Incorporation, and a functioning Board of Directors will be complete in the summer of 2008. NeHII's mission and vision has remained unchanged since its initial formation - to provide Nebraska a statewide HIE for the safe, secure, and efficient delivery of medical data to enable improved patient safety and a healthier Nebraska.

eHealth News

Technology helps mother, baby bond

A new mother at Gothenburg Memorial Hospital viewed her newborn baby at Good Samaritan Hospital using the Nebraska Statewide Telehealth Network. The baby of Jake and Janell Ritz, who was born premature, was airlifted to Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. Because Janell had a C-section and was unable to travel, Gothenburg Memorial Hospital telemedicine coordinator Tracy Geiken suggested she view the baby through telemedicine in one of the trauma rooms. This is the first time telemedicine was used in such a way at GMH.

For the full story go to the [Gothenburg Times Web site](#).

eHealth Council will meet April 15

The next meeting of the eHealth Council is scheduled for April 15 from 1:30 to 4:30 at Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, Board Room, 1800 N. 33rd St. in Lincoln. Video sites will be available in Omaha, Chadron, and North Platte. The agenda is posted on the NITC Web site (www.nitc.ne.gov). For more information, contact Anne Byers (anne.byers@nebraska.gov).

Nebraska HISPC will meet April 22

The Nebraska Health Information Security and Privacy Committee (HISPC) will meet on April 22, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The Education and Legal Subcommittees will meet from 11:00 a.m. to noon. The location will be announced later. For more information, contact Dennis Berens (dennis.berens@dhhs.ne.gov) or Anne Byers (anne.byers@nebraska.gov).

David Lawton appointed to NGA State Alliance for eHealth Taskforce

David Lawton, Public Health Informatics Coordinator for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, has been appointed to the National Governor's Association State Alliance for eHealth Taskforce on Privacy, Security and Health Care Practice Issues. Lawton is a member of the NITC eHealth Council and is the project lead for Nebraska in the HISPC Adoption of Standards Collaborative project. He is also a member of the Health Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP) and the Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC).

Ryan McCabe joins NITC as eHealth Intern

Ryan McCabe has joined the Nebraska Information Technology Commission as an intern. He will be working with Anne Byers on projects and activities which support the eHealth Council. Ryan is a junior at the University of Nebraska, majoring in finance.

National News

Project proposes HIT definitions

The National Alliance for Health Information Technology (Alliance), with the guidance and management of BearingPoint Inc., is seeking further industry input on draft definitions of five terms: electronic medical record (EMR), electronic health record (EHR), personal health record (PHR), health information exchange (HIE) and regional health information organization (RHIO). Remarks may be submitted at www.definitions.nahit.org.

eHealth News

Webinar demonstrates privacy tool

The Public Health Data Standards Consortium is offering a free Webinar on Monday, April 21, 2008 from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm EST to demonstrate PRISM. PRISM is a web-based tool that presents a convenient and useful way to organize and understand the basic legal privacy requirements for identifiable health information use and disclosure. It provides guidance for government health programs in applying state and federal privacy requirements to their programs and functions, but is useful for other health entities as well. This interactive webinar offers a demonstration of the PRISM tool, a description of its structure and features, how to navigate the tool and ways to utilize it to address specific needs.

More information is available at <http://www.phdsc.org>.

Interoperable identity management essential to health information exchange

Managing the identities of providers working with confidential healthcare information is essential to the success of the growing community of state and regional leaders managing health information exchange (HIE), according to a just published in-depth research paper focusing on identity management strategies for electronic healthcare. The 54-page paper examines methods available to facilitate interoperability of identity management within and across communities in the U.S. The panel and the report resulted from collaboration between SAFE-BioPharma Association and the eHealth Initiative, two non-profits committed to improving healthcare through the use of information technology.

Findings in the report include the following:

- Health information exchange can significantly improve the quality of healthcare, and therefore the health, of the American populace, but to be successful it requires the application of consistent standards and policies related to digital identity management;
- Technology continues to evolve, both in identity management and data systems interoperability. As these technologies evolve, health information exchange initiatives will have to maintain awareness of this evolution and take advantage of these advances.
- Digital identities that are tightly bound to the individual provider offer significant benefits, especially in terms of trust assurance and security, in processes involving authentication to systems outside of a users parent organization;
- The development of a network of trust, predicated on strong identity management, is critical to effectively moving HIE forward;
- There are existing industry models for the development of networks of trust that can meet HIE needs.

The panel convened twice as part of the eHealth Initiative Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

The paper is available at toolkit.ehealthinitiative.org or www.safe-biopharma.org.

eHealth News

Kansas City starts employer-sponsored HIE

CareEntrust in Kansas City is the first employer-sponsored [health information exchange \(HIE\)](#) in the nation. Participating employers include Sprint, JE Dunn Construction, H&R Block, American Century Investments, Cerner Corp., the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Children's Mercy Hospitals & Clinics, Truman Medical Centers, Carondelet Health, and The University of Kansas Hospital. The State of Kansas also is participating as a pilot for employees in the Kansas City metro area.

For more information, see the Kansas Health Initiative article on CareEntrust at

<http://www.khi.org/s/index.cfm?aid=1224>

or the CareEntrust Web site at www.careentrust.org.

Louisville HIE surveys consumers on health record banking

The Louisville Health Information Exchange surveyed consumers and organizations on health record banking. Participants were gauged on their attitudes towards the deposit and withdrawal of health information from a community-wide health record banking service. The March issue of the *HIMSS RHIO Connection* reports that 69 percent of consumers were interested in a health record bank service if their physicians supported it. Twenty-four percent said they would pay an average of \$5.00 per month for an account.

More information on the Louisville Health Information Exchange is available at www.louhie.org.

Survey examines consumer perceptions of health IT

A recent survey by the California HealthCare Foundation looks at adoption, use, and perception of HIT by California consumers. The results reveal that most consumers are not using online tools, including electronic health records, e-mail with their health professionals, and online appointment scheduling.

The survey also found:

- Forty percent of consumers are very or somewhat interested in using PHRs. Two percent of consumers currently use PHRs.
- Forty-one percent of consumers are interested in sending e-mail to physicians. Four percent currently send e-mail to physicians.
- Seventy percent of consumers indicated that physician practices' use of technology was important when choosing a physician.

“The State of Health Information Technology in California: Consumer Perspective” is available at www.chcf.org.

Briefing highlights state health IT efforts

National Academy for State Health Policy has published a State Health Policy Briefing on “Using HIT to Transform Health Care: Summary of a Discussion Among State Policy Makers.”

eHealth News

The briefing highlights the efforts of Florida and Arizona to use health IT to reduce costs, increase efficiencies, and improve the quality of care. Florida is developing multiple RHIO's to support statewide health information exchange. Arizona is creating a statewide Web-based Medicaid health information network, which will provide the basic infrastructure on which other stakeholders can build. The briefing also includes challenges and opportunities reported by other states. The briefing is available at www.nashp.org.

To receive *eHealth News from the NITC eHealth Council*, please contact Anne Byers, by calling 402 471-3805 or e-mailing anne.byers@nebraska.gov.

Check out the eHealth Clearinghouse at www.nitc.ne.gov/eHc/clearing/.

Nebraska Information Technology Commission
Office of the CIO
501 South 14th Street
P.O. Box 95045
Lincoln, NE 68509-5045

