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# eHealth News from the NITC eHealth Council

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## State eHealth plans revised

Nebraska's strategic and operational eHealth plans have been revised in response to feedback from the Office of the National Coordinator.

Revisions include additional information on the following topics:

- A gap analysis for structured lab results;
- A gap analysis for summary of care record exchange;
- A timetable of when specific HIE services would become available;
- More detailed information on coordination with federally funded state programs;
- A discussion of how the Medicaid 90/10 match will be leveraged;
- More detailed information on mechanisms to ensure performance and the accountability;
- A more detailed description of the financial policies, procedures and controls in place to ensure funding is used and handled appropriately;
- Additional details describing the state infrastructure;
- The process to keep the state standards current;
- The state's project management approach;
- The process for standard operating procedure and implementation; and
- The state's Privacy and Security Framework.

The revised plans were submitted to the Office of the National Coordinator on July 27, 2010. Plans are available from the NITC's website ([nitc.nebraska.gov](http://nitc.nebraska.gov)).

# eHealth News

## eHealth Council will meet Sept. 13

The NITC eHealth Council will meet on September 13 from 1:30 to 4:00 at Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, 1800 N. 33<sup>rd</sup> St., Lincoln in the Board Room on the first Floor. The agenda and meeting materials will be available on the NITC website ([nitc.nebraska.gov](http://nitc.nebraska.gov)) prior to the meeting.

## NeHII hosts second annual meeting

The second NeHII Annual Meeting was held July 29, 2010 in Hastings, Nebraska at the Quality Inn Hotel and Convention Center. The event was kicked off with a press conference by the Governor at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital proclaiming the success of the statewide health information exchange. Featured speakers for the meeting included Chris Muir with the Office of the National Coordinator from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (ONC), and Keith Hepp from HealthBridge in Cincinnati, Ohio, one of the nation's largest health information exchanges.

Muir attributed NeHII's extremely successful year to its leadership, starting at the top with Governor Dave Heineman and Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy. He also praised the dedication of Nebraska healthcare executives, as well as cohesive stakeholder relationships and involvement. Muir specifically pointed to the extraordinary cooperation among competitors on behalf of patients. Indicating that government stimulus funding was only "seed money," Muir impressed upon the audience the importance of the fact that NeHII was funded primarily by the private sector, with only a very small percentage of grant dollars, and urged other states to follow suit.

Physician adoption continues to increase. After using the system for a short period of time, physicians are experiencing time efficiencies by utilizing NeHII's functionalities. Dr. Stephan Thome, an oncologist in Omaha, finds it very helpful to access patient's results from the various geographic areas in Nebraska. In addition, he stated "Providing consultations is now made much easier with the ability of NeHII to follow a patient across healthcare delivery systems. The HIPAA compliance and security logging is exemplary and reassuring to patient and healthcare provider alike."

A recent *InformationWeek* article inaccurately reported that

information within NeHII is limited to lab and radiology reports and demographic information. However, not only does NeHII have lab reports and radiology reports, but it also provides physicians with transcription records which include history and physicals, consults, discharge summaries and operative reports. Additionally, NeHII provides eligibility information, medication history, and information about medical problems and allergies.

Deb Bass, NeHII's Executive Director, and Chris Henkenius, NeHII's Program Director, maintain busy schedules which include serving as featured presenters in Nebraska and throughout the U.S. at conferences and events. As they share their experiences regarding NeHII and future plans for the exchange, many states are seeking NeHII leaders for information and advisory consulting regarding the process to of implementing HIE successfully. NeHII is offering the advisory services to other states and RHIOs as a revenue generation strategy for the exchange's sustainability. Deb Bass and Chris Henkenius are available for community presentations and may be contacted at 402.981.7664.

## eBHIN changes name, plans implementation

In the last quarter, SNBHIN has changed its name to the Electronic Behavioral Health Information Network (eBHIN). eBHIN was selected as the new name for network because it more accurately reflects the future direction of the organization and mission *to promote quality care through efficient, secure, and confidential handling of data and patient information in order to provide seamless integrated patient care and access from multiple locations.*

Activities have focused on the continuing development of the data system architecture to facilitate entry of service authorization information by care providers based on their service delivery workflow. The information entered into the eBHIN Community Health Solutions application creates a standard record for health information exchange. The design facilitates electronic upload of the information to the Magellan behavioral health Administrative Services organization. Plans for training and go live based on this system design are in development for implementation early in 2011.

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## MCC to offer health IT training beginning Sept. 7

The 2014 deadline for nationwide conversion to electronic medical records is fast approaching, and the need for trained health IT workers is great. A recent survey conducted by the American Society of Health Informatics Managers found that those in the HIT field estimate the number of new health IT jobs created in the next five years will fall between 50,000 and 200,000.

Metropolitan Community College is pleased to offer a new program of study intended to address Nebraska's need for skilled health IT workers.

This fall, MCC will launch its online Health Information Technology program. Metro is the recipient of a coalition training grant from ARRA/HHS to provide HIT training for the entire state of Nebraska.

An HIT specialist diploma consists of a series of online classes designed for incumbent workers in either the health careers or information technology fields. The diploma can be earned after about six months of study.

Scholarship funds to pay for tuition and fees are available for those who qualify; applications are now available. Classes begin September 7.

For more information, visit [www.mccneb.edu/hitp](http://www.mccneb.edu/hitp).

## Wide River TEC announces E-Health Forum & Vendor Lab

Wide River Technology Extension Center (TEC), the Regional Extension Center for the state of Nebraska, has been extremely busy the last few months. On July 13, 2010, we received notice that Meaningful Use was defined. Overall, the perception of healthcare professionals is that their concerns have been listened to and the opportunity for flexibility in meeting the objectives is now a realistic option. As a result, Wide River TEC has begun marketing our services to healthcare providers in the state.

Wide River TEC plans to assist physicians in achieving Meaningful Use of electronic health records, with priority for primary care physicians (PPCP). On August 9, Wide River TEC started offering our services at no cost to eligible prac-

tices! That means for each PPCP who engages with Wide River TEC during this promotional period, the normal fee of \$2,000 per physician will be waived!

To be eligible for this promotional pricing, the practice must meet all the required conditions. To view the list, visit [www.widerivertec.org/home/promotionalpricing.aspx](http://www.widerivertec.org/home/promotionalpricing.aspx). This special promotional pricing is only available until Friday, September 17, 2010.

Wide River Technology Extension Center (TEC) is hosting an E-Health Forum and Vendor Lab on Wednesday, September 15, 2010, at the Embassy Suites in downtown Lincoln. This event offers Nebraska health-care providers a personal, hands-on experience with a variety of leading EHR vendors. It is designed to engage, motivate and educate attendees regarding meaningful use and the clinical value of using health information technology.

To view the invite and to register, visit [www.widerivertec.org/home/events.aspx](http://www.widerivertec.org/home/events.aspx).

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## CMS website offers tip sheets on Meaningful Use and EHR incentive programs

Get up-to-date and accurate information about Meaningful Use and the Medicare and Medicaid EHR incentive programs from CMS at [www.cms.gov/EHRIncentiveprograms/](http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentiveprograms/). Visit the website to get specifics about the program and download new tip sheets.

Fact sheets and downloads include:

- [Medicaid Provisions of the EHR Incentive Program \[PDF 280KB\]](#)
- [Medicaid Questions on the EHR Incentive Program \(8/5/10\) \[PDF 248KB\]](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs: Title IV of Recovery Act \(June 16, 2009\)](#)
- [Press Release: CMS and ONC Final Rules to Sup-](#)

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[port Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records \(July 13, 2010\)](#)

- [Fact Sheet: Final Regulations Define Meaningful Use and Set Standards for EHR Incentive Programs \(July 13, 2010\)](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Electronic Health Records At-a-Glance \(July 13, 2010\)](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Medicare EHR Incentive Program Final Rule Overview \(July 16, 2010\)](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Final Rule Overview \(July 16, 2010\)](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Meaningful Use Final Rule Overview \(July 16, 2010\)](#)
- [Health IT Frequently Asked Questions](#)

management, data warehousing, revenue cycle management, and with consulting on health and human services policy and program implementation.

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## I ngenix and Axolotl to combine

Ingenix announced it is acquiring Axolotl. Axolotl develops and implements HIE solutions for states, communities, hospitals and health systems. Ingenix brings decision-support capabilities that can be combined with an HIE solution to further enhance health outcomes and improve efficiencies. The Axolotl management team will remain in place and will lead Ingenix's efforts in health care community connectivity.

NeHII utilizes Axolotl's health information exchange solution. "This is good news for NeHII and others using the Axolotl framework for HIE for several reasons." said Deb Bass, NeHII's Executive Director. "There will be more human and financial resources to bear in the event future meaningful use requirements need additional development efforts and the markets for both Ingenix and Axolotl will be a very convincing partnership to attract new customers."

Ingenix is a wholly-owned subsidiary of UnitedHealth Group. Ingenix currently provides health information technology and consulting solutions to over 240,000 physicians and nearly 6,000 hospitals. Ingenix also serves multiple state and federal government agencies and health care payers with solutions, including decision support, care