

September 24, 2008

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

**Community Technology Fund Proposals.** At the last NITC meeting, Commissioners invited NeHII and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center to revise and resubmit proposals for funding through the Community Technology Fund. The Community Technology Fund currently has \$120,800 remaining. The revised proposals and review summaries are included in the meeting materials.

**Personal Health Records and E-Prescribing Work Groups.** The eHealth Council has identified e-prescribing and personal health records (PHRs) as areas on which to focus. Work groups are being formed and will meet for the first time in October. Work groups will make initial recommendations by March 2009.

**Legal Barriers to e-Prescribing and Health Information Exchange.** The Nebraska Health Information Security and Privacy Committee has identified a potential barrier to health information exchange in a Nebraska statute dealing with consent. The eHealth Council is also concerned about legal barriers to e-prescribing. Sheila Wrobel, chair of the Nebraska Health Information Security and Privacy Committee's Legal Work Group; Joni Cover, Executive Vice President of the Nebraska Pharmacists Association; and I will meet with Kathleen Dolezal from the Governor's Policy Research Office on Sept. 29 to discuss these issues.

**Next meeting.** The eHealth Council will meet on Oct. 2. Lt. Governor Sheehy is planning to attend and will provide guidance to the eHealth Council as the Council begins making recommendations. The agenda also includes a discussion on financing health IT.

**National Governors Association State Alliance for eHealth.** Lt. Governor Sheehy and eHealth Council Co-Chair Keith Mueller were invited to attend the State Alliance for E-Health's State Learning Forum this month. The State Alliance's new report, [\*Accelerating Progress: Using Health Information Technology and Electronic Health Information Exchange to Improve Care\*](#), specifically highlights e-prescribing and consumer privacy as areas in which states should focus. The report is available at [www.nga.org/center/ehealth](http://www.nga.org/center/ehealth).