

Health Information Exchange for Washington State

Project Update – 05/10/10

We've been busy over the last few months with a variety of activities related to the advancement of HIE in Washington state. The highlights are listed below:

ARRA Cooperative Agreement

OneHealthPort has been working with HCA to understand and address the requirements of the ARRA Cooperative Agreement. This is a developing story as the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) develops its own infrastructure and refines its direction to its Cooperative Agreement partners. The key deliverables we are currently focused on are the strategic and operational plans HCA will submit to the ONC by 6/30/10. These plans will outline our overall approach to advancing HIE in Washington State over the next four years. We are presently on target for completion by 6/30/10.

HIE Governance

Consistent with the requirements we gathered from the community this fall and validated in February, OneHealthPort and HCA put out an RFP for a qualified not-for-profit to serve as the community oversight organization. The apparent successful respondent is the [Foundation for Health Care Quality](#). The Foundation has a long history of service to the Washington State health care community. The Foundation has been working to help address shared health information needs since 1988. As the Community Oversight Organization the Foundation will review and act on the pricing model, privacy/security policies and access policies developed by OneHealthPort, the Lead Organization. In addition, the Foundation will monitor HCA's administration of the ARRA Cooperative Agreement. OneHealthPort and HCA are currently engaged in contract discussion with the Foundation to finalize the proposed arrangement. The HIE governance roles and responsibilities are described in this [EXHIBIT](#).

Shared HIE Services

OneHealthPort received clear guidance from community stakeholders in prioritizing shared HIE services. The initial phase of HIE in Washington state will consist of:

- Hub for the secure exchange of HL7 and X12 messages
- Master Person Index (MPI) for matching patient identities
- Record Locator Service (RLS) for determining patient record locations
- Directory for identifying provider and entity trading partners
- Process for developing and maintaining community standards and conventions
- Management organization to develop and deploy the shared HIE services

In understanding the shared services model it is also helpful to understand the services that will not be offered centrally by the State Wide HIE:

- Data transformation (i.e., harmonizing data)
- Data repository (i.e., no central aggregation of clinical information)
- Applications (i.e., no central electronic medical record, personal health record, viewer)

It is important to note that while these services will not be delivered by the State-Wide HIE, it is assumed other organizations and vendors will likely offer some or all of these services to interested participants. This [EXHIBIT](#) illustrates the decentralized, thin-layer HIE described above.

Early Adopters

As OneHealthPort concludes the initial phase of planning activity the primary challenge ahead is adoption. To build a sustainable HIE it is essential to gain rapid adoption by a critical mass of health care organizations. To this end OneHealthPort has convened the HIE Leadership Group to advise us as we move toward implementation. The members of the HIE Leadership Group meet the following criteria:

- They bring experience and expertise in HIT/HIE
- They represent organizations that currently have information to exchange
- They were identified as priority trading partners by other critical mass organizations

This [EXHIBIT](#) lists the members of the HIE Leadership Group. This group will guide OneHealthPort in the development of the next level of requirements and recommendations related to the HUB and the MPI/RLS. All work products from the HIE Leadership Group will be available for review and comment by the larger community on this site as they become available. There are no work products to review yet.

Next Steps

Key next steps include:

- Completion of the strategic and operational plan
- Execution of an agreement with the Foundation for Health Care Quality
- Development of an RFP to the vendor community for procurement of a Hub.
- Preparation of recommendations related to deployment of the MPI and RLS. These recommendations will identify the preferred approach to the MPI and RLS for Washington State's HIE.

Please note, development of this RFP is just underway. It is NOT complete, and it is NOT available for distribution to, or review by, interested vendors. When the RFP is available, the announcement will be posted here and email notification will be sent to all those who have registered on this site for notifications