



Spokane County MEDICAL SOCIETY

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MEDICAL INFORMATICS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 4, 2009

The SCMS Medical Informatics Committee met at 6:45 am on June 4, 2009 in Room 268 at the Deaconess Health and Education Center. Those present included Torney Smith, Sam Palpant, Sonny Varadan, Sean Rowe, Craig Nielsen, David Henzler, Stefan Humphries, Frank Otto, Daniel Bare, Mike McDaniels, Gordon Decker and Jac Davies. George McAlister was staff.

1. New Mission and Vision Statement for the Committee

- As new technologies develop or become outmoded, the Committee would like to see a mission statement that continues to be relevant. Traditionally, the charge of the Committee had been to guide, educate and advise the community on new technologies and information exchange. The Committee has not been involved in actual implementation.
- **Original Mission Statement:** "The Medical Informatics Committee shall study, help develop and evaluate medical information tools and resources for physicians; inform and educate physicians regarding developments in electronic medical records and other office or personal data systems; and coordinate physician office activities with community medical information systems developments, and advise regarding physician perspectives on such issues."
- It was recommended that the existing Mission Statement be revised to reflect a more active, role as advocates for change. It was moved, seconded and passed that the following mission statement be amended to reflect this new level of advocacy:
- **Revised Mission Statement:** "The Medical Informatics Committee shall study, help develop and evaluate, **and advocate within the regional medical community**, medical information tools and resources for physicians; inform and educate physicians regarding developments in electronic medical records and other office or personal data systems; and coordinate physician office activities with community medical information systems developments, and advise regarding physician perspectives on such issues."

2. Stimulus Package Update

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology has requested comments (RFI) on a proposal to establish regional centers to assist providers seeking to adopt health information technology. The health information technology extension program consists of a National Health Information Technology Research Center (HITRC) and Regional Extension Centers (or "regional centers"). The major focus for the Centers' work with most of the providers that they serve will be to help to select and successfully implement certified electronic health records (EHRs). Original legislation required 50 percent matching funds to establish an extension center, but this provision was waived due to the current adverse state of the economy. A Request for Proposal (RFP) may come later this summer. The original focus of the regional center was on education, but the new focus may be on direct assistance to implement an EMR. The federal government is looking to fund 4-5 regional centers.

On the state level the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) was mandated by Governor Gregoire to become the lead coordinating agency for a statewide plan to spend stimulus monies. Funds will flow through established channels wherever possible. The HCA is holding a series of open forums to determine public policy interest and high priorities, to set interoperability standards, and become acquainted with consumer protection concerns.

3. Subcommittee: Health Information Exchange

Jac Davies, Sam Palpant, Glen Stream, Jon Copeland and Stefan Humphries agreed to serve as a special subcommittee to propose recommendations that might be appropriate for stimulus funding. Sonny Varadan was elected as subcommittee chair. While the committee was unable to meet prior to the June 4 meeting, Dr. Humphries has been in contact with GE Centricity representatives re: their activities in Portland. GE Centricity

reps will be invited to meet with the subcommittee. Sonny Varadan will explore what Providence is doing with McKesson/GE. The subcommittee will also prepare a Request for Information (RFI). A report will be given by the subcommittee at the July 9 meeting.

4. Subcommittee: Spokane/Regional Physician Practice Use of EMR-Jac Davies

A subcommittee was formed to conduct a survey of SCMS members to determine who are using EMR's: how they are using it, barriers to adoption, how can we help, etc. The overall goal of the subcommittee was to help community practitioners prepare to adopt or implement an EMR. Glen Stream and David Henzler agreed to work with Jac Davies and Doug Weeks to develop a list of survey questions and to establish the appropriate methodology for conducting the survey. Because of traditionally low survey response rates (electronically, and by mail or FAX), it was recommended that the survey be conducted as a random set of representative site visits.

Jac Davies requested a copy from George McAlister of the most recent "Use of EMR" survey sent by the Spokane County Medical Society. A copy of the 2004 survey was emailed to Jac on June 4, 2009.

5. Go Local Project-George McAlister

The Spokane County Medical Society and Project Access-Spokane are partnering with the National Library of Medicine to develop a Go Local site for eastern Washington State. The target resources in this Go Local proposal are located in the counties of Okanogan, Chelan, Kittitas, Yakima, Klickitat, Douglas, Grant, Benton, Ferry, Lincoln, Adams, Franklin, Walla Walla, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Whitman, Columbia, Garfield and Asotin.

The Go Local (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/golocal/about.html>) component of MedlinePlus connects users to health services in their local communities, as well as directs users of the Go Local sites to MedlinePlus health information. The Go Local links on MedlinePlus health topic pages take you to information about health services in local geographic areas, including hospitals, physicians, nursing homes, support groups, health screening providers and many others. You can link directly from each MedlinePlus health topic to services related to that particular topic.

MedlinePlus (<http://medlineplus.gov/>) is a web site created for consumers by the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). MedlinePlus is a free web site that brings together authoritative information (with no advertising) from the NLM, the NIH, and other government agencies and health-related organizations. Pre-formulated MEDLINE searches are also included in MedlinePlus and give easy access to medical journal articles. Further, MedlinePlus has extensive information about drugs, an illustrated medical encyclopedia, interactive patient tutorials, and the latest health news.

6. Roundtable Discussion

- The Health Record Bank Project, using Google Vault, is still operational and slowly enrolling new members. The health record bank collects patients' paper and electronic health records from three participating clinics: the Rockwood Clinic, Physicians Clinic and the Heart Clinic. HCA funding has been extended to the end of the year whereupon decisions will be made as to project viability, addition of other data types, more participating clinics, etc.
- A discussion of item #4 above regarding a survey of physicians on the use of EMR: it was suggested by the Committee that in addition to "use" questions, queries should also be included on implementation, such as "what would it take to adopt an EMR in your practice?"; "what are your barriers to use or adoption?"; and "what are your future intentions, if any?"

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by the individual whose name appears below:

Stefan Humphries, Chair