



Spokane County MEDICAL SOCIETY

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MEDICAL INFORMATICS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 6, 2009

The SCMS Medical Informatics Committee met at 6:45 am on August 6, 2009 in Room 268 at the Deaconess Health and Education Center. Those present included Craig Nielsen, Glen Stream, Stefan Humphries, Frank Otto, Jac Davies, and Bev Roberts. George McAlister was staff.

1. ARRA/HCA Updates

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. The HCA is developing a strategy for the adoption and use of electronic medical records (EMRs) and health information technology (HIT). This strategy will be consistent with emerging national standards and to promote interoperability of health information exchange (HIE) systems. HCA's first step was to identify major organizations which could serve as lead groups representing the industry who have a stake in HIT. These lead groups would then come together to work on and make recommendations regarding HIE and other HIT issues. An August 1 deadline for this first step has been deferred, as HCA has decided to wrap the HIE and HIT efforts into a larger statewide framework.

2. EMR "Meaningful Use" Update

Dr. Humphries distributed a "Meaningful Use Matrix" which outlined the priorities, care goals, objectives and reporting measures necessary for physician and hospital providers to become "meaningful users" of an electronic health record (EHR). Incentive payments for measurable adoption and compliance begin in 2011 and gradually phase down. Starting in 2015, providers are expected to have adopted and be actively utilizing an EHR in compliance with the "meaningful use" definition or they will be subject to financial penalties under Medicare. Final definitions of meaningful use have not yet been finalized, including who will decide whether criteria have been met.

3. Subcommittee Update: Spokane/Regional Physician Practice Use of EMR

The subcommittee did not meet. It was suggested that the committee wait for a final definition of "meaningful use" before taking further steps.

4. Subcommittee Update: Health Information Exchange

The subcommittee did not meet. As a reminder, Jac Davies, Sam Palpant, Glen Stream, Jon Copeland and Stefan Humphries were designated as a special subcommittee to propose recommendations that might be appropriate for stimulus funding. Sonny Varadan, also a member, was elected as subcommittee chair. At the August 6 meeting Craig Nielsen expressed an interest in serving on the subcommittee.

As health information exchange (HIE) is one of our local priorities, the subcommittee will put together a Request for Information (RFI) to find interested vendors. The RFI will be written in a "use case" format to ask vendors to describe how their product will respond specifically to proposed scenarios. Subcommittee members will review vendor recommendations and then invite the best prospects to attend the full committee meeting. These pre-planning efforts by the subcommittee will allow us to respond quickly to any future funding opportunities.

5. Open Discussion

When any progress or results are available, Doug Weeks will be asked to report to the committee on the medication reconciliation project.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by the individual whose name appears below:

Stefan Humphries, Chair