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April 2012

Iowa e-Health Connection

A monthly e-newsletter on the progress of health information technology and the health information exchange in Iowa

iowa e health — A collaboration to provide better information for better care.

Executive Director Update

Wow, it's hard to believe that April is here already. March has gone by very quickly and before I knew it Karith, e-Health's Communication Coordinator, was reminding me it's time to get the April edition of the e-Health Connection out.

This past month, Public Health Director Dr. Miller-Meeks, Deborah Thompson and I, along with many of Iowa e-Health's stakeholders, have worked with legislators at the Iowa House and Senate. The Iowa e-Health bill passed out of the Human Resources Committee and Ways and Means Committee in both the House and the Senate. On March 19, SF 2318 passed out of the full Senate and that version has since been taken up by the House for consideration. Amendments to reconcile both the Senate and House versions of the bill will be developed and we are hopeful that both chambers will agree on the details, allowing the bill to be sent to the Governor.

Life of the Program

Provider Type		Totals
Physician	599	$12,487,928
Nurse Practitioner	159	$3,378,750
Dentist	27	$573,750
Certified Nurse Midwife	14	$297,500
PA Practicing in an FQHC/RHC that is so led by a PA	10	$212,500
Hospitals	57	$23,619,031
Total	866	$40,569,459

Iowa e-Health By the Numbers

Iowa has been a national leader in the EHR incentive payment program. As of March 31, 2012, Iowa Medicaid has paid out $40,569,459 to qualifying eligible professionals and hospitals. These payments represent 866 providers across the state who are benefiting from Iowa Medicaid's EHR incentive payment program. As of February 29, 2012, 373 Iowa providers have received incentive payments from the Medicare meaningful use program for $26 million.

The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise is looking forward to continuing this momentum into 2012 by approving payments to providers applying for Year Two Meaningful Use payments beginning April 2. Providers have until 2016 to initiate participation in the incentive payment program. To find out if you qualify for incentives, contact Kelly Peiper, Iowa Medicaid HIT Coordinator,

Stay tuned for more on Iowa e-Health's legislative progress.

Iowa e-Health's Privacy and Security Workgroup, led by Susan Brown (Telligen) and Tracy Donner (IDPH), has started meeting again. The group is holding bi-weekly calls to learn more about preferences for implementing a process by which patients may opt-out of having their health information exchanged through the IHIN. The group is considering ramifications of a global opt-out policy and an organizational/visit level opt-out policy with careful consideration to how either option would impact both providers and patients. Our goal is to minimize the burden of the opt-out process for everyone, while maintaining complete, confidential patient records.

The Iowa e-Health team continues work to develop contracts, policies and procedures needed to fully operationalize the IHIN. Under development are contracts such as the IHIN Participation Agreement, policies like those for interstate data sharing and information access, and many detailed procedures as well. We continue to examine our e-Health evaluation plan and how to evaluate the IHIN's role as a tool to improve health outcomes. Work continues also with our Early Adopters to gather technical information to prepare for IHIN connectivity. While several project milestones and deadlines are behind us, many still lie ahead and we must move forward effectively and efficiently with all of our partners to ensure

at 515-974-3071, or by email at imeincentives@dhs.state.ia.us.

Training to Support Electronic Health Record Implementation

Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC), a member of the Midwestern Community College Consortium, has been granted an extension to provide training targeted for 100 individuals with previous medical or technical experience for roles that support the installation, implementation or management of EHR systems. A national curriculum, developed by five universities, and complemented by access to an EHR lab for hands-on experience, is designed to be completed in 6 months or less and leverages previous professional experience. Enroll now to be eligible for grant funding.

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Telemedicine Improves Rural Health Care, Reduces Costs

Suppose you live in a rural community, suffer a head injury and arrive at the local hospital for treatment. Your local hospital may have a CT scanning system, but there's no radiologist available to interpret the severity of your injury. Health information technology now gives many rural hospitals and their patients a solution to this problem.

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CMS Proposes Stage 2 Meaningful Use of Certified Electronic Health Records Technology

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology jointly issued proposed regulations for Stage 2 Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records.

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we meet them all.

Next month's edition of the e-Health Connection will include an in-depth look at Direct Secure Messaging and what this service brings to IHIN participants. We look forward to beginning directed exchange of health information starting in just over three months. With the IHIN release on the horizon, the Iowa e-Health team is giving presentations over the next several months to a number of organizations to increase awareness about the benefits of health IT and to explain more about what an IHIN participant should expect to see. We'll be speaking at the Iowa Hospital Association, the Iowa Healthcare Educator Spring Conference, Governor's Conference on Public Health, Upper Midwest Osteopathic Health Conference, and the Iowa Medical Group Management Association. It would be great to have you attend and ask any questions you may have.

-- Kim Norby, Iowa e-Health Executive Director

Calendar

- April 11: Privacy & Security Workgroup Meeting, 1-2:00pm via conference call
- April 12: e-Prescribing Subcommittee Meeting, 2-3:00pm via conference call
- April 13: Iowa e-Health Executive Committee & Advisory Council

Meeting, 10:00am-2:00pm Urbandale
Public Library
- April 17 & 18: Iowa Public Health
  Association's Annual Conference,
  Scheman Building, Iowa State
  University
- April 20: Evaluation Workgroup
  Meeting, 9-10am via conference call

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