

Iowa e-Health Connection

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



A collaboration to provide better information for better care.

Executive Director Update

Welcome back to the October edition of the *Iowa e-Health Connection*. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on several items. First, the statewide health information exchange is now named the Iowa Health Information Network or IHIN. This will better distinguish the system from other exchange efforts, such as the health insurance exchange. Second, in a past update I shared that we were nearing approval of the Iowa e-Health Financial Sustainability Plan by our Executive Committee. Since that time, the 2011 Iowa General Assembly directed that a workgroup be established to use that great work and produce a "Business and Financial Sustainability Plan" in preparation for the 2012 session. See the article in this edition for more about this work. Lastly, we are working diligently to move forward with the IHIN build and implementation. The first phase of our plan rolls out a new messaging service for health care, called "Direct". This secure messaging allows the "directed" exchange of any type of information, similar to the way e-mail is used today. Direct is a national standard, and is made secure through the use of certificates, which ensure the identity of the sender and receiver. Providers will hear a great deal more about this new tool as it is built into EHRs and health information exchanges across the country. Learn more at <http://wiki.directproject.org/home>. Enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter!

– Kim Norby, Iowa e-Health Executive Director

Calendar

- **OCTOBER 28** – Executive Committee and Advisory Council Meeting
- **DECEMBER 9** – Executive Committee and Advisory Council Meeting



Iowa Health Care Providers Making Progress Implementing Health Information Technology

Iowa's health care industry finds itself ahead of the curve in implementing health information technology. That was the consensus of presenters at the 2011 Iowa e-Health Summit, August 11-12 in Altoona. The event was co-sponsored by Telligen, the Iowa Department of Public Health's Iowa e-Health collaborative and the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise. It drew more than 300 health care providers and information technology professionals from across the state.

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Business and Financial Sustainability Plan Workgroup

The 2011 Iowa General Assembly enacted legislation (House File 649) creating a workgroup to develop a business and financial sustainability plan for Iowa e-Health and the Iowa Health Information Network (IHIN). The Business and Financial Sustainability Plan Workgroup first met on August 30th, and includes representatives from the Iowa Hospital Association, Iowa Medical Society, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Federation of Iowa Insurers, Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, Iowa Department of Public Health, and a business entrepreneur appointed by the Governor. With a deadline of submitting the plan to the General Assembly by December 1, 2011, the workgroup has been busy reviewing work already developed by Iowa e-Health, and forming recommendations regarding IHIN participation fees, avoiding the use of state general appropriations for sustainability, establishment of an Iowa e-Health fund, and governance of the IHIN. Watch for more information about the workgroup and plan at www.lowaeHealth.org.

Iowa Hospitals Honored as "Most Wired."

Six Iowa hospitals have been named to the American Hospital Association's Most Wired list for 2011. Named to this year's 100 most wired hospitals were Fort Madison Community Hospital, Fort Madison; Genesis Health System, Davenport; Henry County Health Center, Mount Pleasant; Mercy Medical Center, Cedar Rapids; and The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City. Broadlawns Medical Center, Des Moines, was named to the list of 25 most wired small hospitals. The honorees were chosen for their information technology infrastructure and its use in administrative management and throughout the care continuum including quality and safety. "The strong presence of Iowa hospitals on this year's list reflects the rapid adoption of health information technology to improve efficiency and quality of care for the people of Iowa," says Iowa e-Health Executive Director Kim Norby.

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