

**HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2012 MINUTES
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM
CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Jewel Mullen (Chair), Tom Agresta (Vice-Chair), Dan Carmody (phone), John Lynch (phone), Peter Courtway (phone), Mark Masselli (phone), Kevin Carr (phone)

HITE-CT: David Gilbertson, John DeStefano, Peter Armstrong

DPH REPRESENTATIVES: Marianne Horn, Uma Kutty

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: None

CALL TO ORDER

D. Carmody recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order at 4:37 PM.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

MOTION: Upon a motion made and seconded by J. Lynch and T. Agresta, respectively, the Executive Committee moved for adoption of the minutes from May 14, 2012. D. Carmody abstained, all others were in favor and the **Motion passed.**

HITE-CT BUSINESS

Executive Director Report (D. Gilbertson)

D. Gilbertson described the status of the contract negotiation discussions with Axway. He indicated that he was in conversation with the senior management at Axway to identify ways of restructuring the contract. He mentioned that the proposed fee structure for the Secure Messaging (involving use of Direct and the Axway infrastructure) and the Provider Directory (utilizing NextGate) had been shared with Axway's management. D. Gilbertson had suggested to the Axway management that restructuring could be done in such a manner as to utilize products as needed instead of incurring an upfront cost. He was waiting to hear back from the Axway team for a potential date and time for a follow up meeting which would also involve D.Carmody.

D. Gilbertson provided an update on the Direct conference organized by ONC at Washington DC the previous week. D. Gilbertson and J. DeStefano attended this conference. He indicated that ONC was encouraging the use of Direct and even EMR vendors are adapting their products to include Direct messaging capability as part of the product offering. He provided the example of the CERNER EMR which (per the vendor sales team) has the capability to both send messages to a Direct account as well as receive responses back from one. He mentioned that ONC was in the process of developing certification criteria for a HISP. D. Gilbertson also indicated that overall the adoption rate for HIEs was slow for solutions based on Direct messaging as well as ones that were based on a robust HIE system. He shared information on Rhode Island's HIE adoption wherein 300,000 people are enrolled in the HIE and the opt-in rate was 95%. Not all hospitals and/or providers are enrolled in the State HIE in RI.

D. Gilbertson provided updates on the stakeholder meetings that had been conducted in CT. He mentioned that he had met with Leading Age, a Skilled Nursing Facility, the Norwalk Hospital and DPH program staff during the past few weeks.

Report on the 2012 Update to the Connecticut Strategic and Operational Health Information Technology Exchange Plan

D. Gilbertson mentioned that the HITE-CT sustainability model would depend on the Medicaid participation and the bonding numbers. He mentioned that HITE-CT was working with DSS to update the SMHP and the strategic plan. On the S&O Plan update due to ONC by June 8th, D. Gilbertson indicated that he would need to request ONC for additional time, as several changes may need to be made to the Sustainability Plan in the current S&O plan and decisions on these would have to be made by the Board of Directors. For instance, the original S&O plan calls for a percentage or flat fee to be charged from hospital associations as well as legislation for mandated assessment. The current strategy refers to a fee subscription. The Sustainability Plan needs to be updated with one of the above two approaches. The committee decided that the plan could state that the current strategy, subject to change, is to charge a subscription fee.

D. Gilbertson and several board members expressed a need to get key healthcare and Government leaders together to adopt a sustainability strategy that is valid and addresses the real needs of the state. M. Masselli suggested that the HITE-CT CEO make an official ask for bond funding. This would also require that the Chair present a bond letter to OPM Secretary Ben Barnes with inputs from HITE-CT outlining the goals and objectives of HITE-CT along with the associated timelines. D. Gilbertson mentioned that the bond money had to be used for capital purchase which would translate to software licenses to the tune of about \$5.9 million.

Since the operational costs for HITE-CT cannot be bond funded, Dr. Mullen requested the CEO meet with DSS Commissioner to discuss Medicaid participation and timing of 90/10 funding. D. Carmody suggested a meeting led by the Lieutenant Governor and her staff including key state leaders, hospitals, payers, and other stakeholders. It was suggested that Commissioner Bremby would be the best person to convene this meeting. J. Mullen asked the CEO to coordinate with Commissioner Bremby and seek his support and assistance in assembling the meeting and also provide him a short list of areas where DSS support was essential for the overall sustenance of HITE-CT. For meeting with the other stakeholders, J. Mullen suggested utilizing the REC to convene the meeting, especially since this was in keeping with the suggestions made by the ONC REC Project Officer F. Adetosoye.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance

It was indicated that the budget approval would need to wait until contractual issues with Axway were resolved.

Legal & Policy

J. Lynch indicated that minor revisions had been made to the Participation Agreement and these would be presented to the full Executive Committee once the changes are finalized. The next meeting would be held on June 6th. He mentioned that if the decision was to use Direct then the Legal and Policy Committee would not be required to deliberate on the operational aspects of the consent model.

J. DeStefano indicated that he would be attending the June 6th meeting to discuss some technology options for the consent model. J. Lynch wanted to know the status of the BAA. D. Gilbertson mentioned that he would check and get back to John on this.

Technology

P. Courtway reported that the on-boarding material was being prepared.

Operations

K. Carr asked to approach Kimberly Kalajarian from L&M hospital about being a co-chair of the B&TO committee. The executive committee agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made and seconded by M. Masselli and J. Lynch, respectively, the meeting adjourned at 6:10PM.