

Approved MINUTES

Massachusetts Health Information Technology Council

Meeting

August 6, 2009

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

**Matta Conference Room
One Ashburton Place
Boston, Massachusetts**

Secretary Bigby called the Meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Review and Approve Minutes of July 17

Ms. Fenichel asked for a minor edit to be made to the draft minutes.

After motions made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed to accept the draft minutes (with the suggested edit) as the official minutes of the July 17th meeting.

II. Introduction of Deloitte Team

Secretary Bigby explained that we have contracted with Deloitte Consulting to work on our plan. She explained that she had met with the team and was excited about the work that will be accomplished in the next few months. She then asked Mitchell Adams to introduce the team.

Mr. Adams then introduced Lisa Sherwin, the Project Manager for this endeavor.

Ms. Sherwin asked the members of the team to go around the room and introduce themselves and their area of expertise. After all the introductions, she explained that Doug Beaudoin, Brian Fuller and William Carroll were not able to attend.

III. Plan Overview and Integration of Council Members in Plan Review Process (Presentation incorporated as part of the minutes)

Ms. Sherwin then went through the “MeHI HIE and EHR Planning Project” presentation.

She stated that she appreciates the council’s willingness to take the time over the next few weeks as they work on the deliverables. Some key deliverables she highlighted included a formal presentation on September 2, with final completion near the end of September, and a full plan completed 2 weeks into October.

She emphasized that this project has the Council, MeHI and Deloitte working together to bring broad experience. Over the next few weeks they plan to bring forward deliverables and decisions for council review. During the process there will be 7 streams of activity, they will not be functioning independently but will work together.

Eric Finocchiaro discussed the Funding and Loan processes.

Highlights include:

- ◆ Understand the available sources of funding under ARRA and HITECH and how that money flows and to whom.
- ◆ Determination of HITECH and other funding (loans/grants) opportunities for Massachusetts

Kevin Carr explained the Electronic Health Record Stream (EHR)

Highlights include:

- ◆ Build on past successes. We have a foundation to build upon and the goal is NOT to re-create the wheel. We will attempt not to re-interview individuals unless necessary acknowledging that much has already been captured.
- ◆ Focus on how to engage implementation organizations. Host across state. Then link to public health and other key entities.

Michael Kleinmann talked about Health Information Exchange (HIE) Implementation.

Highlights include:

- ◆ Reemphasizing that they were not going to boil the ocean or reinvent the wheel. The focus is on a sustainable business model.
- ◆ Leverage what is out there from a governance perspective.
 - What needs to be in place and other key concerns
 - What existing assets are out there?
 - How does everything fit together?
 - What revenue is out there, what are key costs?

Alex Contreras mentioned Privacy and Security.

Highlights include:

- ◆ Leverage information that is there, in the State and in the community.
- ◆ Determine security framework.
- ◆ Focus on protecting the consumer in this space

Next Randy Gordon addressed Public Health and Quality Reporting.

Highlights include:

- ◆ Reporting can be a complex process: a Hospital can have 10 different reports
- ◆ Public Health data is not as complete as it needs to be. Public Health Details are under reported.
- ◆ How can we use state wide HIE to improve quality data?
- ◆ What are the data points, and how do we leverage?

Question – Will your assessment look at not only the provider entity but also the state of readiness to receive data? Response: Yes, to understand current process, but also understand it may be in stages and we need to determine how do we get there?

Lisa Sherwin explained the Interoperability stream as Brian was not able to attend.

Highlights include:

- ◆ Provide a framework that as things change, it is able to adapt.
- ◆ Interoperability cuts across all of these work streams

She went on to speak on Governance.

- ◆ How do you keep things coordinated?
- ◆ How do you know funding is going to the right places so you can report out?
- ◆ The rest of the country looks at Massachusetts as a leader. How is it going? What are you doing? What are lessons learned?

Secretary Bigby then opened the discussion for questions

Dr. Bell stated that governance is a critical part of this process and we will need to leverage and coordinate the key groups and work here in MA as well as making sure we are monitoring all that his happening in other states and at the national level. Then she asked if the Deloitte team is reviewing these types of activities.

Ms. Sherwin responded that Deloitte has a team and they will be reaching out to learn from others. We will leverage that knowledge. Michael Kleinmann has been working in Wisconsin, taking lessons learned. Meaningful use is a big portion as well. The Information is tied into the national and federal level and Deloitte is abreast on what is happening.

Ms. Fenichel asked for clarity regarding abbreviations PMM and PMO - they are Project Management acronyms.

After a brief question and answer Ms. Sherwin pointed out that there is one work stream absent from this presentation. It is in the area of workforce development. We have reached out within our organization to experts on how you engage with educational systems. It is another thread of work.

Although the presentation shows individual streams and teams, there will be other stakeholders involved in the process. And the streams will be pulled all together.

A council member asked, "What are your key critical aspects that must be included in the plan?" Ms Fenichel went on to state that we must make sure that we have a real consumer engagement, that providers and consumers are a team. It is essential we make sure consumers are a part of this process; it can fail with lack of trust and lack of engagement.

Dr. Bell stated that we must insure that there is a basically high level program with milestones and deliverables, on which the community can rely. It is critical that our product support meaningful use.

Secretary Bigby pointed out that it is very important to not look at this as a project the state is doing but a structure that is moving forward. Not because we have all the technology, but we can align with goals to improving health care. It is very important that the plan is NOT seen as the State plan while something else is going on, on the side. It is statewide plan that will leverage and incorporate existing entities where appropriate and work to make it a part of the plan.

Mr. Szabo added there are stakeholders and communities, but we also have to deliver a report to the state legislature to explain the status of our work. Communication will be a great part of this project so as to assure that information is communicated to all stakeholders in the Commonwealth. How do we communicate this to all the different stakeholders? We need deliverables that will help us with that. What is the plan, what does it mean, are we spending money wisely.

Mr. Dehner was encouraged that it does not appear the plan or the process will be overly focused on opportunities in the HITECH act. He went on to explain that as a council we are interested in a process or strategy that is more encompassing of support for our broader categories of providers. How do we integrate federal money into the plan, but do not leave it at that.

Ms. Adair stated that the plan is huge and it is a great plan in terms of multiple simultaneous work efforts. How will the plan and the council member's work get integrated?

Ms Sherwin replied that Deloitte will engage council members in areas where they have expertise They will try to make the best use of their time, look to them to provide information, but also ask for input, for example, what are resources you are aware of that we may have missed. It will move quickly, but that is why we have assembled such a large team. We will review materials prior to bringing to full council, there will be decision points we will ask for input. There are things we will ask early on. Some decisions may have already been made to put the commonwealth in a right stand.

Kevin Carr stated there may be a lot of white boarding meetings in order to consider all options.

Various council members stated they are happy to participate and be involved where needed.

Secretary Bigby concluded the discussion explaining that was everything on the agenda then asked if there were any other items to be discussed or brought to the council's attention.

Mr. Adams mentioned that we are coming to the end of the process of the search for the MeHI director. Secretary Bigby has met with candidates and a decision should be made soon.

Ms. Fenichel asked what the role of that person will be relative to all of this work going on, in terms of this program and this project.

Secretary Bigby responded that Deloitte is working for us, the Council. The Executive Director represents the council and insures that our desires are being met and what we are focused on. We have hired someone in the interim role and that will go away when this Director role is filled.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.