



Health IT Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting Notes April 21, 2010

[Meeting Agenda](#)

On May 19th, the Health IT Policy Committee hosted the 12th HIT Policy Committee meeting. Dr. Blumenthal welcomed the group, and then before turning the meeting over to HITPC Co-Chair Paul Tang, he noted that the Beacon Community awardees had been announced. Dr. Blumenthal indicated that 15 communities had been named out of over 400 applicants. Dr. Blumenthal also noted that an additional \$30 million in Beacon funding will be released in a couple of weeks. The HITPC members approved the meeting minutes of the April 21st meeting and Dr. Tang reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Key news items from this meeting:

- The Meaningful Use Workgroup announced a preliminary schedule for the development of and release of Meaningful Use Stage II criteria, including a potential RFI seeking feedback from stakeholders before releasing final recommendations in the second quarter of 2011.
- The Information Exchange Workgroup announced intent to reform the membership of the group to include representation and feedback from the public health community, public health laboratories, and state Medicaid directors. The Workgroup also proposed to create and manage an Advisory Panel of state-level HIT coordinators to create a communication channel to the HIT Policy Committee and HITPC Workgroups.
- Jodi Daniel announced the creation of an Enrollment Workgroup of the HIT Policy Committee which will be chaired by Aneesh Chopra and Sam Karp/Carp. The tasking of the workgroup is to develop standards recommendations needed for the uninsured who come in contact for other social service programs can enroll in health insurance exchanges or other federal health programs.
- The Strategic Plan Workgroup submitted a [Strategic Plan Framework](#) to the HIT Policy Committee for consideration.

Strategic Plan Workgroup Strategic Plan Framework Presentation

Chair Paul Tang and ONC staff Jodi Daniel highlighted key goals and objectives of the proposed ONC Strategic Plan Framework. There are four proposed strategic framework goals.

- Policy and Technical Infrastructure
 - Establish policies, standards, implementation specifications and certification criteria that **incrementally** enhance the interoperability, functionality, utility, reliability and security of HIT and that support its meaningful use
 - Encourage, and facilitate development of market-sustainable mechanisms that ensure reliable, secure, and protected exchange of health information.
 - Increase market confidence in and safety of EHRs and other HIT products and solutions that support meaningful use health outcomes.
- Privacy and Security
 - Develop, promote and enforce privacy and security laws and appropriate policies for all aspects of information management, HIT and health information exchange
 - Increase understanding of, implementation of, and compliance with laws, policies, and practices to protect the privacy and security of health information.
 - Increase consumer engagement in health maintenance, health care and accuracy of electronic health information through widespread consumer access

- Meaningful Use
 - Working toward the utilization of an electronic health record for each person in the United States by 2014, capture, manage, and meaningfully use health information to improve the health and health care for individuals and the population and to reduce disparities.
 - Leverage public sector resources and policy levers in coordination with the private sector to accelerate adoption of proven HIT that achieves health outcome goals.
 - Advance and promote HIT to inform and engage patients and caregivers in shared decision making on matters related to patients' health and health care.
 - Improve efficiency in the health care system and reduce administrative burden on providers and patients through HIT.

- A Learning Health System
 - Facilitate the creation of knowledge through consistent policies, standards, and methods that leverage networked information.
 - Through a comprehensive education and communications campaign, promote a shared vision of a learning health system and the role of HIT in helping to create it.
 - Leverage data from populations to expand knowledge and promote scientific discoveries that advance the understanding of health, disease, and treatments.

Following the presentation, HIT Policy Committee members recommended that the Workgroup address some identified gaps in the strategic plan:

- Date certain accountability for ONC and HHS to accomplish goals
- Creation of a "Human Readable" form of the Strategic Plan to help "tell the story" of how the meaningful use of EHR's helps patients and providers.
- Governance: Impact of NHIN, NHIN Direct, and NHIN Connect
- Measuring how incentive payments are being utilized and driving the market, and measuring the potential impact of payment reform on implementation efforts.

Information Exchange Workgroup Recommendations

The Information Exchange Workgroup stated that original IE WG charter was too large for single the singular workgroup led to launching of NHIN and Privacy & Security WGs, which now allows IE WG to focus on breakthrough areas. As the work has progressed, the workgroup has developed recommendations for changing the structure of the group to better address barriers prevent providers and/or states from being effective enablers of broader and deeper health exchange. The Information Exchange Workgroup identified two specific recommendations:

- Change the structure of the Information Exchange workgroup to include members of the public health community, public health laboratories, and state Medicaid directors.
- Create and to create and manage an Advisory Panel of state-level HIT coordinators to create a communication channel to the HIT Policy Committee and HITPC Workgroups.

Meaningful Use Workgroup Update and Recommendations

Meaningful Use Chair Paul Tang first reviewed the Meaningful Use hearing on Patient Engagement. He noted that testimony focused on several themes:

- Demand Universal and immediate patient access to health information now
- HHS must engage the public in the development of Meaningful Use
- ONC must encourage innovation in the development of patient engagement solutions
- Meaningful Use must meet the objectives of providing better quality of care to diverse and underserved populations.

Dr. Tang then announced that the Meaningful Use Workgroup has developed a baseline timetable for the development of Meaningful Use Stage 2 criteria. The timetable flows as follows:

- June 4- Meaningful Use Workgroup Hearing on Health Disparities
- Summer- Hearings on Care Coordination, and Public/Population Health
- September, 2010- The Meaningful Use Workgroup will consider feedback from hearings and develop draft recommendations for Meaningful Use Stage 2
- October, 2010- The Meaningful Use Workgroup will present initial Meaningful Use Stage 2 recommendations to the HIT Policy Committee.
- November, 2010- The Meaningful Use Workgroup will recommend that HHS release a Request for Information through the Federal Register calling for public comment on the initial Meaningful Use Stage 2 Workgroup Recommendations
- Second Quarter of 2011- The Meaningful Use Workgroup, utilizing both public comments, HIT Policy Committee, and Federal feedback along with data and evidence from the first months of Meaningful Use Stage 1 to submit final recommendations for Meaningful Use Stage 2 criteria to the HIT Policy Committee for submission to CMS and ONC.

ONC Update

Jodi Daniel announced that Aneesh Chopra and Sam Karp (who based on preliminary research is the former CIO and now Vice President of Programs at the California HealthCare Foundation) will co-chair a new Enrollment Workgroup of the HIT Policy and Standards Committee. The Workgroup is tasked with making recommendations for the development of standards which will allow the uninsured to enroll in social service/health/insurance programs. This task was assigned to HHS, ONC, and the HIT Policy and Standards Committee in Section 1561 of the healthcare reform legislation passed earlier this spring.

Dr. Blumenthal noted that grant authorities for activities (such as demos or surveys) to support the activities of the new Enrollment Workgroup are not funded. His comments could be a precursor to further legislation that could fund such activities.

Gayle Harrell voiced several concerns surrounding issues of federalism and potential impact on states and requested more information on the tasks assigned by Congress to the workgroup. Dr. Blumenthal noted that ONC is still working to fully understand the scope of these activities.

Neither Dr. Blumenthal nor Jodi Daniel mentioned the status of final rules for Meaningful Use, Certification Criteria, or Certification Programs.