

**Meeting of the RI AHRQ Health IT Project Steering Committee**  
**March 23, 2006 ♦ 7:00am – 9:00am**

Robinson C. Trowbridge Center at Kent Hospital ♦ 10 Health Lane ♦ Warwick, RI

**MEETING MINUTES**

**MEETING ATTENDEES** (\*indicates participation by teleconference)

**Steering Committee**

- Ted Almon**, Consumer
- Fadya Al Rayess, MD**, Chad Brown Health
- Bryan Barrette**, RI Department of Health
- Kerrie Jones Clark**, RI Health Center Assoc.
- Carol Cotter**, Lifespan, Co-Chair
- Gary Croteau**, South County Hospital
- Lisa Dolan-Branton**, AHRQ
- Yul Ejnes, MD**, RI Medical Society
- Jim Feeney**, East Side Clinical Laboratory
- Steve Foley**, Prov. Community Health Ctrs
- Heather Larch**, Pharmacist
- Kathleen Mahan**, SureScripts
- Maria Montanaro**, Thundermist Health Ctr
- Steven Mueller**, United Health Networks\*
- Pat Moran**, Hospital Association of RI
- Ray Ortelt**, Pawtucket Memorial Hospital

- Cedric Priebe, MD**, Care NE, Co-Chair
- Ray Sessler**, Neighborhood Health Plan of RI
- Tracy Williams**, RI Dept. of Administration
- John Young**, RI Department of Human Svcs

**Management Committee**

- Laura Adams**, RIQI
- Deidre Gifford, MD**, Quality Partners of RI
- Jeremy Giller\***, Clarendon Group
- Leonard Green**, RI Department of Health
- Laura Ripp**, Consultant, Project Staff
- Melinda Thomas**, Department of Human Svcs
- Patrick Vivier, MD, Ph.D.**, Brown University
- Amy Zimmerman**, RI Department of Health

**Other Attendees**

- Mary Ellen Casey**, Quality Partners of RI
- Reid Coleman, MD**, Lifespan
- David Gifford, MD**, RI Department of Health

**MEETING PURPOSE**

To discuss project status; review and discuss feedback on issues, processes and implications of data stewardship for the community-governed Health Information Exchange.

**AGENDA**

- 7:00 – 7:05**      **Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**  
*Cedric Priebe, MD, Care New England, Steering Committee Co-Chair*
- 7:05 – 7:10**      **Consideration for Approval: 2/23 Meeting Minutes**  
*Cedric Priebe, MD, Care New England, Steering Committee Co-Chair*
- 7:10 – 8:00**      **Project Update**  
*Cedric Priebe, MD, Care New England, Steering Committee Co-Chair*  
*Amy Zimmerman, Rhode Island Department of Health*
- 8:00 – 8:30**      **Data Stewardship Issues and Process:**  
**Feedback on Steering Committee Request for Action**  
*Cedric Priebe, MD, Care New England, Steering Committee Co-Chair*  
*Dr. David Gifford, Director, RI Department of Health, Chair, Policy & Legal Cmte*  
*Laura Adams, CEO, Rhode Island Quality Institute*
- 8:30 – 8:45**      **Update on New Requests for Action:**  
**Professional Advisory Panel**  
*Cedric Priebe, MD, Care New England, Steering Committee Co-Chair*  
*Dr. Deidre Gifford, Quality Partners of Rhode Island, Chair, Professional Advisory Panel*
- 8:45 – 9:00**      **Recap Next Steps and Adjourn**  
*Cedric Priebe, MD, Care New England, Steering Committee Co-Chair*

## MEETING SUMMARY

### 1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Cedric Priebe, Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 7:02am and welcomed the group.

### 2. Consideration for Approval

#### ■ 2/23 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Priebe directed the group to the last meeting minutes and asked for comments and corrections. It was noted that there were several changes needed to the attendance roster and the first (partial) sentence in the Policy and Legal Committee section on Page 3 should be deleted. A motion was made and seconded to approve the February 23, 2006 minutes with these changes. Steering Committee members voted in favor of approval.

#### **Action Items:**

February 23, 2006 meeting minutes are accepted with changes.

### 3. Project Update

Amy Zimmerman referred the group to the Project Update handout summarizing project activities completed during March and those planned for April. Key points of the update included:

#### ■ RI Health Information Exchange (HIE) Request for Proposals (RFP)

The HIE RFP was released January 4, 2006 with a proposal deadline of March 2, 2006. A list of thirteen responding vendors was provided. Ms. Zimmerman will extend another invitation to the community to sign an NDA and participate in the review of responses to help advise the official state scoring committee.

#### **Action Items:**

Continued updates will be provided on the status of proposal review and evaluation process.

#### ■ Subcontract Status

A. Zimmerman reported Brown's contract to support Project Evaluation has been approved by AHRQ. Final contract is pending Brown signature and state-issued Purchase Order.

#### **Action Items:**

Contracting activities are ongoing. Continued updates will be provided.

#### ■ Consumer Advisory Committee (RIQI)

Laura Adams, CEO, Rhode Island Quality Institute, reported that the new RIQI Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC), co-chaired by Marti Rosenberg (Ocean State Action) and Mary Jones (consumer), conducted its inaugural meeting on March 17, 2006. The meeting was productive, positive and considered a strong and successful start to this group's work. The first meeting included an overview of the project and related issues and allowed for group feedback. The group was also given an opportunity to review the moderator guide that Clarendon Group will use to conduct focus groups to test consumer views on a range of health information topics. These focus groups will provide detailed and quantifiable information about consumer perspectives on the HIE. The Consumer Advisory Committee inquired about and was

supportive of the addition of more consumer representatives that are not affiliated with a consumer advocacy organization. It was also noted that there was a deliberate decision to not include media in this group but to incorporate relationships with media representatives into a formal communication plan. Tracy Williams suggested recruiting from other age demographics. Cedric Priebe also suggested DCYF. Staff will develop a process to continue to build the required balance of consumer groups and “average” consumers in the Consumer Advisory Committee.

**Action Items:**

Clarendon staff will provide a list of CAC members to the Steering Committee. Continued updates will be provided on the activities of this important group.

■ **Integrated Administrative Data Exchange (RIQI)**

Laura Adams provided an update on Administrative Data Exchange. She was joined by John Adams, Pat Huschel and Judy Wright, the new RIQI VP, in a meeting to discuss existing initiatives to rethink the approach. During this meeting it was noted that there are existing aggregator services that may be able to be leveraged to improve information access and efficiency to support healthcare delivery and administration. Tracy Williams pointed out the importance of being able to define the value proposition of making administrative data available. Laura Adams noted the need and the commitment to move this issue forward.

**Action Items:**

Continued updates on progress regarding administrative data exchange will be provided.

■ **Policy and Legal Committee (RIQI)**

Dr. David Gifford provided an update on the Policy and Legal Committee (PLC) and indicated that the group and its subcommittees have been working to identify issues primarily around non-clinical uses of data; and much work has been done to inform policy development by crosswalking existing state laws to data use issues.

**Action Items:**

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■ **Professional Advisory Panel (PAP—QPRI)**

Mary Ellen Casey, Quality Partners of RI (QPRI), provided an update on the PAP. Ms. Casey noted that there has not been a PAP meeting since the last Steering Committee meeting—the next one is planned for March 1, 2006. QPRI is also conducting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Health IT Fair on March 4<sup>th</sup> in Providence. The event will feature a range of local speakers with an emphasis on real and relevant Health IT implementation experiences. All are invited to attend.

**Action Items:**

Continued updates on PAP activities will be provided.

■ **Pharmacy Subgroup (QPRI, other)**

Amy Zimmerman provided an update on Pharmacy activities on behalf of Jeff Newell (QPRI). Ms. Zimmerman reported that there are efforts underway to more closely align the RIQI e-Prescribing Committee (eRx) with the QPRI Pharmacy work group; therefore, the groups will be merged. Since medication history issues (a focus of the Pharmacy work group) are different from eRx issues, there will be some unique elements that must be managed separately, however, merging the groups will keep the Pharmacy

domain cohesive. Kate Lapane, the Principal Investigator for the SureScripts project to test pharmacy data standards and the SureScripts Medication History project, was invited to participate on the eRx Committee. Ms. Lapane responded that she will not be able to participate in that Committee during this academic year so project staff will keep her aware of issues that arise as well as facilitate communication with her about these projects to get more information about how pilots will be conducted in Rhode Island.

John Young noted the implications for advancing pharmacy data exchange due to the Medicare Part D requirement to track dispensing history under the program (currently there is no way to track and/or coordinate medication dispensing information). These activities will likely contribute high value to pharmacy data exchange initiatives. The coordination of benefits problem is significant to Medicare Part D administration so there will be lots of effort going into managing data to solve this problem.

**Action Items:**

Continued updates on pharmacy data exchange issues will be provided.

■ **Issues Tracking Process**

Laura Ripp introduced the rationale for establishing an issues tracking process and the use of this process to manage many concurrent topics as they are deliberated through various working groups and presented to decision-making bodies for consideration.

Mary Ellen Casey presented the Organizing Framework that supports the process and described the Summary Management Report that has been developed to actively track and coordinate the identification, discussion and recommendations around specific topics and issues that must be resolved through the RI HIT Project. Ms. Casey noted that the Management Committee recommended that the process be piloted and refined for several months then further evaluated.

**Action Items:**

Staff will report on the status and evolution of issues tracking processes.

**4. Governor's Bond Issue and the Role of the Steering Committee**

■ **Discussion:**

Dr. Priebe turned the floor over to Tracy Williams, RI State CIO, who presented a package of recommendations for an *Innovation Bond* produced by the RI Department of Administration, Division of Information Technology (IT) representing IT improvements in five strategic areas: Education, Homeland Security and Public Safety, Web-enabled Government, Economic Development and Healthcare. She noted that despite numerous revisions and cuts, the Governor preserved investment in health information technology and specifically, the proposed infrastructure to build the health information exchange. In the funding plan, there is a \$1.5 million capital investment in 2007 and additional incremental funding totaling \$20 million over the next 4 years.

The Innovation Bond is a Certificate of Participation, a debt financing mechanism that goes to the General Assembly for vote. This funding approach is does not require a public referendum. If the General Assembly approves the budget, they will then look for a lender to back the bond instrument.

Ms. Williams noted that support for the entire IT package is a good approach to help with its passage through the General Assembly. Steering Committee members can support this infrastructure investment initiative by writing representatives and seeking

the endorsement of professional associations. There was a motion made for the Steering Committee to make a resolution of support for the complete package with the intention to function as a Steering Committee for the IT Project. The Steering Committee voted and unanimously approved this resolution with one abstention. It was noted that this resolution should be taken to the RIQI Board for endorsement. In an effort to immediately demonstrate Steering Committee support for the Innovation Bond package, the Steering Committee Co-Chairs will prepare a letter of support on behalf of the group. Tracy Williams will provide details on where the letter should be directed and the timing of the hearing before the General Assembly.

**Action Items:**

Staff will assist Steering Committee Co-Chairs in preparation of a letter of support for the Innovation Bond package. Amy Zimmerman will keep the Steering Committee apprised of the specific date/time of the hearing and related activities.

## 5. Data Stewardship: Issues and Process

### ■ Discussion:

Carole Cotter, Co-Chair, introduced the topic of data stewardship by noting the complexity of the issues around the control and use of data that may be made available through the HIE. She turned the floor over to Laura Adams who first noted the sensitivity around the use of the term "ownership" and the implications for control and use of data that are inherent in realizing interoperable health information exchange. Ms. Adams added that since the value to be derived from the HIE is diffuse, yet the costs are ongoing, there are questions of what the best model is to sustain the HIE infrastructure, what body will manage the budget, what oversight mechanisms must be in place, etc. She noted that the RIQI Board believes these are all critical issues and is committed to address them.

As the HIE project has progressed, the work of the Policy and Legal Committee has touched on some of these issues. It is clear that there is still much deliberation and discussion that must occur at many different levels throughout RIQI and the RI HIE initiative to examine possible approaches to data control and use, including policy, legal, technical and financial considerations. The Policy and Legal Committee will examine use case scenarios to help frame the issues and alternatives. RIQI's Sustainability Committee is also expected to have a role in formulating policy and providing direction.

Ms. Cotter added that this discussion is being presented at this meeting to begin to engage the Steering Committee in these important discussions. Maria Montanaro commented that these are THE most critical issues for the HIE and there is some concern that the forums where these conversations are taking place may not be inclusive enough to represent all the interests at stake. Ms. Montanaro noted two major aspects of data stewardship that should be clearly and openly addressed: (1) identifying acceptable uses of data and (2) the process for determining how uses of data in the HIE are considered, including who is involved in the decisions and by what criteria such deliberations should occur. Ms. Montanaro believes it is incumbent on this Steering Committee to try and broaden this process to make sure it is inclusive of all stakeholders that should be involved. One approach may be to commission a separate work group or organize a roundtable discussion with policy makers, academics, consumers and others who would develop a white paper that could then be broadly vetted. John Young noted that there are models for data exchange that are currently in use. Ms. Montanaro pointed out that the data in the HIE is somewhat different in that it is aggregated from many different sources, beyond just state data. She added that the process to be defined begins by properly framing the question which should be the first charge of the group. She suggested something like, "It is inevitable that there is pressure to find appropriate uses of data and to support the infrastructure, what is that process?" Tracy Williams added that a proposed approach should also include penalties for violations and breaches, etc. Laura Adams stated that the RIQI Board would be supportive of the recommended process if indeed it was assigned to an accountable body.

Carole Cotter noted that in these and other discussions, there has been the inadvertent merging of two issues that should not be combined: (1) use of the data (for clinical and other purposes) and (2) sustainability. Dr. Priebe noted that while some discussion has undoubtedly surfaced around circumstances where data may be provided for a fee, issues about "data for sale" should not be considered until there is a process in place to determine how or if such activity would be acceptable and, if so, how it would be

managed. A. Zimmerman reminded the group that the vision for RI's HIE includes uses of data beyond clinical care that contribute to improving population health, for example, public health and research uses. Steve Foley noted that there are preliminary issues about ownership that must also be addressed. Ray Ortelt noted that issues around data ownership may indeed be outside the scope of the Committee and should be very carefully managed.

The Steering Committee agreed with the need to examine recommendations for an overarching approach and a disciplined process to address these very volatile ideas around HIE data use. Pat Moran noted that there is an opportunity to provide the PLC with specific direction from the Steering Committee. The group proposed that the PLC be charged with developing recommendations for an inclusive process that describes how decisions on HIE data use should be considered—this process should include a reporting/feedback mechanism to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee also requested an overview of the PLC's charge.

As time did not permit continued discussion, the group was directed to send any additional comments or issues related to this discussion to Laura Ripp.

**Action Items:**

Staff will formulate a request to the PLC to develop recommendations for an inclusive process to adjudicate issues around HIE data use. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

**6. Initial Feedback on Naming the Health Information Exchange**

■ **Discussion:**

Ms. Cotter noted the time and pointed the group to a document that reflected a summary of names generated by project work groups and committees to date. Discussion on the Project Identity initiative was deferred.

**7. Recap Next Steps**

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the same location. Ms. Cotter summarized key agenda items as follows:

- Project Update
- RFP Status
- Follow-up on request to PLC for recommendations for an inclusive process to address data use
- Other topics as indicated

**8. Adjourn**

- Ms. Cotter thanked the group and adjourned the meeting at 9:00 am.