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Health IT – The Changes Ahead

Meeting Room 6B
Government Technology Conference
Thursday, February 18, 2010
2:00 PM

Panel Discussion Agenda

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2:00 – 2:05 Moderator	What is HIT? Introduction of Panel Members
2:05 – 2:20 Panel	Health IT – Where are we? 1. Dr. John Joe 2. Nora Belcher 3. Ann Kitchen
2:20 – 2:40 Panel	Panel Responds to the Questions from Moderator
2:40-2:55 All	Questions from the Breakout Session Attendees
2:55-3:10 Panel	Final Thoughts If Change is Ahead, How can we prepare?
3:10 – 3:15 All	Wrap Up

What is Health IT?

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- Health IT or HIT describes the comprehensive management of health information and its secure exchange between consumers, providers, government and quality entities, and insurers.
- Shared and consistent utilization of HIT will:
 - Improve health care quality;
 - Prevent medical errors;
 - Reduce health care costs;
 - Increase administrative efficiencies;
 - Decrease paperwork; and
 - Expand access to affordable care.
 - Interoperable health IT will improve individual patient care.

Health Information Technology Panel

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- **Nora Belcher**

Executive Director, Texas e-Health Alliance

- **John C. Joe, MD, MPH,**

Assistant Professor, Family Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine

- **Ann Kitchen**

President, Ann Kitchen Consulting, Chair, Texas HIE Coalition

Moderator: Chris Guerrero,

Director / HIT Coordinator

IT Center for Service Design and Architecture

Department of State Health Services

Nora Belcher

Executive Director, Texas e-Health Alliance

Nora Belcher brings an impressive breadth of experience to the Texas e-Health Alliance as Executive Director, with over fifteen years of senior-level experience in health and human services policy and management in both the private and public sectors.

Prior to joining the Texas e-Health Alliance, Nora served as Director of Healthcare Consulting for Strategic Partnerships, Inc. for a variety of healthcare and technology companies wishing to conduct business with state governments. Nora also served in Governor Perry's office with distinction for five years.

In her role as deputy director in the Governor's Office of Budget, Planning and Policy, Nora was responsible for overseeing the \$20.5 billion dollar biannual budget for Texas health and human services. Furthermore, under her leadership, a \$250 million dollar reformation package for Child Protective Services was signed into law, earning her the reputation as the state's "go to" expert on health and human services issues.

Nora has also represented the executive branch of Texas state government in negotiations with federal agencies regarding funding and implementation issues.

Prior to serving under Governor Perry, Nora spent three years as a senior policy advisor with the State Medicaid Office of the Health and Human Services Commission, where she was responsible for information technology projects in excess of \$50 million and telemedicine issues.

She also held policy analyst positions with the Texas Medical Association and the Center for Rural Health Initiatives.

Nora holds a bachelor's degree in government from the University of Texas Austin.

John C. Joe, MD, MPH

Assistant Professor, Family Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine

John C. Joe, MD, MPH, is an assistant professor of family medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, an adjunct professor of medical informatics at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and an informatics specialist for space medicine at NASA's Johnson Space Center.

Dr. Joe has served as an advisor on electronic health records (EHRs), health information exchange (HIE) and health information technology (HIT) for numerous government agencies and health care organizations. He has extensive experience in primary health care delivery; health care administration and finance; health information systems design and development; clinical process redesign and systems implementation; and HIE design, funding, governance, planning and implementation.

Dr. Joe helped develop one of the first patient portals for secure HIE between patients and physicians in the late 1990s. In early 2000, he founded an HIE technology company, which he then sold to a successor who now provides HIE software to more than 30,000 physicians.

In 2006, he co-founded a clinical information systems and services company where he directed the creation of one of the first Certification Commission for Health Information Technology certified inpatient EHR systems.

Dr. Joe has assisted more than 1,500 physicians of all specialties and hospitals of all sizes in implementing EHR systems, and has developed business and strategic plans for regional and state HIEs.

He is actively involved with U.S. efforts to establish policies for HIE infrastructure and operations, as well as criteria for the meaningful use of EHRs through his service on the Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel.

Ann Kitchen

President, Ann Kitchen Consulting, Chair HIE Coalition

Ann is a national expert on the development and operation of health information exchanges (HIE). Ann Kitchen was the Executive Director of the Integrated Care Collaboration, a tax-exempt nonprofit, regional collaborative of 26 hospital system, nonprofit clinic, FQHC, MHMR, medical society, health department, university, healthcare district, recuperative care center, EMS, jail health services, and other providers. As ICC Director, Ann was responsible for the ongoing development and management of the web-based ICare system, a nationally recognized HIE unique in the scope of data for uninsured/underinsured patients available for research, community/program analytics, and treatment support at point of care.

Ann Kitchen also offers healthcare consulting services focused on strategic planning, policy change, regulatory compliance, organizational development, community and government relations, business planning and sustainability development. Her expertise lies in assisting communities develop and implement programs designed to improve quality and access to care, particularly for uninsured, vulnerable, and underserved populations, and securing the necessary policy changes to transform delivery systems and sustain systemic changes.

Ann has over twenty five years of health care policy and operational experience as an attorney, healthcare consultant, State Medicaid official, state legislator, and member of the executive team for a Medicaid managed care plan. Ann has over ten years of experience as a state official with state health care programs. Ann was a Senior Medicaid Policy Advisor with HHSC. She was also an Assistant Attorney General with the Charitable Trust Section of the Texas Attorney General's Office. Ann also served the State as a caseworker for special needs children at the Texas Commission for the Blind.

Chris Guerrero

HIT Coordinator, Department of State Health Services State of Texas

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Ms. Guerrero is currently IT Director, Center for Service Design and Architecture at the Department of State Health Services also serving as the DSHS Health Information Technology Coordinator. She has 15 years state service at the forefront of numerous Technology Initiatives in Texas.

She serves as founding member of the Texas State Citizen Corp Advisory Council supporting Medical Reserve Corp Program, Citizen Emergency Response Teams, and Volunteers in Police Service

Ms. Guerrero participated in the development of KatrinaSafe.org and lead the Department of Emergency Management Logistics Team developing the Special Needs Evacuation Tracking System for Hurricane Response receiving the Texas TASSCC Excellence Award 2008, and Computerworld Honors Program 2008 for solutions that benefit society.

Prior to joining State Health Services, she served both Governor Bush and Governor Perry's office as Technical Project Manager for the Office of the Governor and 2000 Presidential Transition Team.

She started with the Texas Department of Health, Deputyship for Health Care Finance in the Vendor Drug Program and later TDH State Laboratory.

In addition to state service, Ms. Guerrero has been involved with Round Rock and Austin Independent School Districts' Partners in Education Programs since 1998 encouraging minority and female students to pursue careers in Technology, Engineering, and Civil Service.

Panel Questions

1. Texas Health IT, where are we today?
2. Since our audience is a wide array of Government related IT folks, can you define:
 - The difference between an electronic health record and a electronic medical record?
 - What exactly is Health Information Exchange?
3. What is Texas doing to make sure that the workforce is there to assist with transitioning providers to meaningful use? And what does this mean for people already working in either the health care or IT sectors?
4. How prepared are hospitals and doctors for achieving the US government's definition of "Meaningful Use" of health IT and in particular, its statewide and national health information exchange requirements?
5. How can health information exchange data help government entities do their job better and how can local HIEs work with government entities to improve health outcomes and quality of care in communities?
6. What changes should we expect in the future in respect to Government Technology?
7. What other changes should we expect?

Health IT Panel Questions Continued

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8. One of the federal government's requirements to receive HIT funds is to contribute towards "meaningful use" of EHRs by health care providers in our state. What does meaningful use mean and how do you think Texas will accomplish it?
9. What are regional extensions and how do they fit into the picture of what the feds are seeking to accomplish? What is going in Texas with regional extensions?
10. In the light of current economic indicators and a looming state budget reduction, and since HIE will require much on the behalf of both public and private partners, how do you think Texas can address sustainability?
11. What states have been successful at HIE and how are consent and privacy issues being addressed?
12. As Texas is entering into a planning phase for statewide HIE, how far behind is our state and what do you consider to be the strongest challenges to achieving "meaningful use"?

Questions from the Breakout Session Attendees

- 15 Minutes Q&A

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Final Thoughts

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If Change is Ahead, how can we prepare?

Presentation Information

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