

THINC RHIO, Inc.

Taconic Health Information Network and Community

THINC RHIO Board Meeting

A meeting of the THINC RHIO, Inc. (THINC) Board was held on March 5, 2008, commencing at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Mike Duffy
Mark Foster
Gene Heslin
Paul Kaye, MD
Arthur Levin
Robert Savage

Board Members Absent:

Art Nizza

Non-Board Members Present:

Asha Upadhyay (Program Director, THINC)
John Blair, III, M.D. (Chairman & CEO, MedAllies)
Steve Rossi (THINC, CFO)

Notice of the meeting was duly given to the Directors prior to the date of the meeting.

I. REGULAR BOARD MEETING

A.) APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2008 MEETING MINUTES

Mike Duffy called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting of the Board of Directors. A motion was made & seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

B.) THINC UPDATE

Asha Upadhyay gave an update on the Center for Disease Control's Health Information Exchange Project, the Department of Health and Human Services' Nationwide Health Information Network Phase 2 project and the first THINC Event in the Hudson Valley.

The **CDC-HIE** project is off hold with a kickoff meeting to be held in early march. The application was submitted in July 2007. The lead applicant is Health Research Inc., in partnership with the NYSDOH and NYCDOHMH. The project partners include THINC and four other New York state RHIOs (Bronx RHIO, Greater Rochester RHIO, NYCLIX and Western New York Clinical Exchange). The goal of this project is to link public health with the RHIOs to a common set of standards and services for the bi-directional exchange of data. This would involve the creation of a universal public health node. Clinically this will involve developing and implementing standard messaging specifications and services that RHIOs would need to interface with the universal public health node services in order to support the new HIE

functionalities. The project' original timeline was Oct07-Sept 08 over two years, with four option years. The timeline will be revisited due to the delay in starting the project by the CDC. The total CDC grant project budget is \$40M of which NY State received \$20M. The two other awardees were Indiana and Washington State. The budget for THINC is \$350k for the first year. THINC with its technology partner MedAllies & GSI will develop a public health node within the health information exchange. This will involve automated reporting from hospitals and EHRs. This public health node will have bi-directional feeds to multiple state entities one of which will be to the Universal Public Health Node. The UPHN will communicate with the CDC.

The **HHS-NHIN phase 2** project includes the development of the core services and multiple optional use cases. The lead applicant is NYeC in partnership with the NYSDOH and several RHIOs. The project start to finish dates are October 2007 to September 2008 plus two option years. Two RHIOs (LIPIX and NYCLIX) were chosen for the development of the core services. THINC expressed interest in and has been selected to do the Quality use case. This use case is for aggregated quality reporting directly out of EMRs. There is a kickoff meeting on Friday March 14th. The HHS contract is with NYSDOH and NYeC. They have chosen Computer Sciences Corporation as the general contractor. THINC will be a subcontractor with MedAllies.

THINC will be a participant with MedAllies as a subcontractor to develop an HL-7 spec for quality reporting using data directly from EHR systems. Currently physician performance is reported from health plan claims data. MedAllies will do the development, field testing and work with several other groups. HL7 will have final balloting at the end of 2008. This will create a standard way for quality reports to be produced out of EHRs from all EHR vendors. See the QRDA handout. THINC's budget is 250k which will include administrative costs and the MedAllies scope of work on this project.

The **THINC event** will be held on March 20, 2008. The detailed agenda for the event was discussed and approved by the Board. Mike Duffy will introduce the THINC Board of Directors at the event. Asha informed the Board that she discussed the idea of co-sponsors for the event with no financial commitment, but in the spirit of a community collaborative, and partnership in the mission of THINC with Mike Duffy prior to the Board meeting. The co-sponsors will send THINC event information/flyer to the members in their distribution lists so that members of the Hudson Valley community will have the opportunity to be informed about the event. Mike Duffy agreed that this was a good idea. There are many organizations that have agreed to be co-sponsors. Sprint healthcare has also expressed an interest to co-sponsor the event. Mike Duffy suggested that it would be a good idea to ask the health plans if they would like to co-sponsor. Asha Upadhyay will contact the health plans if they are interested in co-sponsorship. The current estimated cost for the event is approximately \$5k. Asha Upadhyay will prepare and issue a Press Release to send to members of the Press and media. Information about the event will be in the events calendar of Poughkeepsie Journal and Kingston Freeman. Art Levin suggested contacting other local newspapers for their events calendar.

C.) COMMITTEE REPORTS

Privacy & Consumer Committee:

Art Levin reported that a subgroup of NYeC is reviewing and sorting the responses to the proposed consent process white paper in order to help move the process forward. There is a HISPC public meeting on Monday, March 10th to review the comments. Privacy Committee is waiting for the final decision from HISPC. It is expected that this will be finalized prior to the announcement of the HEAL5 project awardees in April 2008.

Quality & Clinical Committee

Dr. Blair reported that the quality committee met to discuss the cost evaluations for the two physician groups for the P4P project. There will be 250 physicians who are in the control group for the study and are paper based; and 250 physicians who have EHRs and will have achieved Level II Medical Home recognition. These 500 total physicians will cover approximately 500-600k patients in the Hudson Valley. The quality committee is discussing the methodology to get a full cost attribution for each of the primary care physicians to see the impact of the Medical Home. The Quality committee will be working out the details over the next several months.

D.) MEDALLIES REPORT

Dr. Blair reported that the number of physicians and practices on EHRs are 185 physicians across 21 practices. He referenced the Bridges to Excellence Press Release and the Deloitte & Touche Medical Home article which was sent to the Board.

Mike Duffy suggested that THINC-MedAllies keep track of the percentage of the physicians in the Hudson Valley area are actually implementing or already on any EMRs. Dr. Blair said that the Taconic IPA reps are working on getting this information and that about 5% of the small physician groups that are 10 physicians or less are on EMRs.

Mike Duffy suggested asking THINC event attendees for their email addresses then create a mailing list for those interested in receiving information on topics related to Health information technology with the standard option to be removed from the mailing list.

E.) NEW BUSINESS

Mike Duffy asked if any of the Board members would like to be on an internal search committee for the Executive Director, with the understanding that this will not be executed until we are sure it can be financed by the HEAL grants. The committee can begin by developing a list of responsibilities, a list of possible candidates and begin interviewing. Art Levin, Paul Kaye and Mike Duffy will be on the search committee.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to close the public session of the meeting. The meeting moved into Executive Session.