

THINC RHIO, Inc.

Taconic Health Information Network and Community

THINC RHIO Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 01, 2009, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Board Members Present: Mike Duffy, Chair
Joe DeVirgilio
Dr. Mark Foster
Dr. Gene Heslin
Dr. Paul Kaye
Arthur Levin
Arthur Nizza
Robert Savage

Non-Board Members Present:

A. John Blair, III; Susan Stuard, Allison Laquidara, Asha Upadhyay, Geddy Sveikauskas

Meeting materials: 1) Meeting Agenda; 2) March 2009 Meeting Minutes, 3) List of Directors of the Corporation; 4) List of Officers of the Corporation; 5) List of Committee Members; 6) THINC RHIO Name Change Resolution; 7) THINC Financials; 8) THINC Project Update Report; 9) THINC Committees Update Report; 10) Public Relations Activities Update; 11) Susan Stuard Presentation.

I. MEMBERSHIP MEETING

A) Election of Directors

A motion was made to approve the Directors of the Corporation. The motion was seconded and the Directors of the Corporation were approved.

B) THINC RHIO Name Change

Susan Stuard requested to change the name of the corporation. She noted that the activities of the organization are more than a Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO), and outside parties find the name cumbersome. She also noted that THINC is planning to file an application for Federal tax-exempt status. Arthur Levin asked if the name has been cleared with the state to make sure we are not in conflict with any other names. Susan Stuard said that yes, this had been verified.

Mike Duffy made the motion, which was seconded and approved unanimously to pass the resolution to change the name of the Corporation from THINC RHIO, Inc. to THINC, Inc.

II. ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

A) Election of Officers

Mike Duffy asked for a motion to approve the Officers of the Corporation. A motion was made and seconded and the Officers of the Corporation were unanimously approved.

B) Approval of Committee Members

Mike Duffy asked for a motion to approve the Committee members of the Corporation. A motion was made and seconded and the Committee members of the Corporation were unanimously approved.

III. PUBLIC SESSION

A) Approval of March 4, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Mike Duffy asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2009 meeting. A motion was made and seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

B) Financials Update

Susan Stuard reviewed THINC's financials with the board. She noted that THINC was reimbursed for the HEAL1 Q10 voucher. She noted that THINC had activated nearly 100 HEAL1 licenses for the HealthQuest implementation. Mike Duffy asked how THINC was doing from the cash point of view. Susan Stuard said that THINC was in good standing.

C) THINC Projects Update

Susan Stuard gave an update on the following projects:

- **HEAL 1:** THINC received a payment for the Quarter 10 voucher. THINC submitted the requested installation records for Quarter 9 to NYSDOH. THINC has not received any feedback on the Quarter 8 voucher. The implementation of EHRs is on track.
- **CDC HIE – Year 1:** THINC is in the process of closing out the first year of this grant. Details on Option Year 1 will be coming soon from NYSDOH.
- **P4P/Medical Home:** The grant closeout report was submitted to NYSDOH. Invoices from Cornell for the project evaluation were submitted to NYSDOH. All slots for the Medical Home portion of the project are filled. THINC has received 198 signed agreements out of the 210 physicians enrolled for the project. Three of the six health plans have completed their contract for the project.
- **HEAL 5 -SHIN-NY and CIS:** The HEAL 5 project is proceeding on target. THINC has received payments on quarter 2 vouchers that were submitted to NYSDOH. THINC has started working on the privacy policy requirements with the Privacy and Consumer Committee. A draft authorization policy has been completed and discussions have started on the patient access policy.

THINC conducted interviews with hospital CIOs to review the scope of the HEAL 5 project use cases, gather information about their current health information systems and vendors, and determine their current capabilities. It was found that fifty percent of the hospitals are undergoing a technology platform change, changing out the old system to a new system.

THINC met with the executives from Blythedale Children's hospital regarding their Certificate of Need (CON) submission to NYSDOH for purchase of a new health information system. Mike Duffy asked to be kept informed about the status of Blythedale's CON.

THINC has engaged an independent consultant to perform due diligence on the HEAL5 technical work plan. The consultant will present his findings at the June Board meeting.

D) THINC Committees Update

Susan Stuard gave the following update:

Public Health Committee

This committee is comprised of Public Health Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners. Paul Kaye mentioned that he serves on the NYeC's Public Health sub-workgroup and has seen that there is a disconnect between state and local health public health departments regarding health information exchange.

Privacy and Consumer Committee

The committee has reviewed a second draft of the authorization policy and is starting work on patient access requirements.

Quality and Clinical Committee

THINC will hold its June committee meeting in-person at the IBM offices, in Somers New York.

Technology and Security Committee

THINC and MedAllies conducted interviews with hospital CIOs from six hospitals (Health Alliance, Health Quest, Orange Regional Medical Center, Stellaris Health System, St. Francis Hospital, and Westchester Medical Center). The results of these interviews, including impacts to the timeline and the next steps, will be discussed with the committee at the next meeting.

E) Public Relations Update

Asha Upadhyay reported the following:

It is part of THINC program to keep the Hudson Valley community informed of its activities. Passage of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) inspired THINC to contact several members of the press and media for a wider dissemination of THINC's program and action plan in relation to electronic health records and health information exchange. Cablevision News, Poughkeepsie Journal and Hudson Valley Business Journal came to the THINC office and interviewed Susan Stuard. The resulting articles and news segment are scheduled to appear during the week of March 30th and April 6th.

Mike Duffy asked about the percentage penetration of EHRs in the Hudson Valley. Susan Stuard reported that per a Taconic IPA survey, EHR adoption is approximately 21 percent. Mike Duffy said that this is a considerable improvement from three years ago when this was at 3 to 4 percent. He asked what THINC should be doing to increase the numbers for EHR adoption. He asked if the THINC Board could be utilized to communicate to physicians. Community education and education to physicians is important to help them understand the HITECH stimulus funding. If physicians do not implement EHRs very soon then they will miss the stimulus incentives for 2011. Dr. John Blair said that MedAllies will be doing the marketing to spur EHR adoption. Mike Duffy suggested we should be getting physicians implemented on EHRs as soon as possible. He said this should be discussed further at the next THINC Board meeting.

F) Pay-for-Performance /Medical Home Presentation

Susan Stuard gave a presentation on this topic:

THINC's Pay-for-Performance grant project with NYSDOH was closed out at the end of its two year term in February 2009. This grant sought projects implementing quality metrics, quality report

cards, and health plan incentives. THINC, MedAllies and the Taconic Independent Physicians Association (TIPA) decided to leverage the work on this project and added a significant Medical Home component.

The Medical Home emphasizes the partnership between patients, their physicians, and as applicable the patients' families. The goal is to move from episodic care to ongoing care orchestrated by the primary care physician (PCP). The coordination of care is facilitated by registries, EHRs, health information exchange, and dedicated care coordination staff (if available). There is an emphasis on open access scheduling, enhanced office hours and enhanced communication tools.

The National Committee on Quality Assurance's (NCQA) Physician Practice Connections program – Patient Centered Medical Home (PPC-PCMH) Levels 1, 2 and 3 was developed with input from several key physician groups: American College of Physicians (ACP), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). The standards emphasize the use of systematic, patient centered, coordinated care management process.

The key differentiator of the Hudson Valley project from pilot projects in other parts of the country is that there is an existing physician EHR install base that will be working on Level 2 Medical Home. EHRs are a critical tool for process improvement necessary for medical home. THINC's project is a multi-payer collaborative involving six health plans which comprises 53% of the covered lives in the region. The participating health plans are Aetna, CDPHP, Hudson Health Plan, MVP, United (both Commercial and the Empire Plan), and WellPoint.

The project participants are 500 primary care physicians in the Hudson Valley. 250 will be in the quality metrics group only and 250 will be in the quality metrics and the medical home group. The six health plans will provide claims data for metrics to ViPS, the data aggregator. Health plan incentives will be paid out at the end of 2009 after the quality report card is issued. The health plans are actively engaged in this project via participation in the THINC Quality Committee meeting. IBM has also pledged support for this project.

THINC is managing this project and working with the health plans to determine the payment process and triggers. The THINC Quality Committee ensures a collaborative process for development of project goals and implementation. THINC is also involved in physician recruitment for the project. MedAllies is working with ViPS to enable quality reporting from EHRs via a quality reporting service. TIPA is providing leadership and underwriting the medical home transformation initiative. Cornell is conducting the evaluation, data gathering, and developing and administering the surveys, analysis, etc.

Health plans are in the process of submitting letters of commitment for approximately \$1.5 million of planned incentive payments. All costs for the medical home transformation initiative are being underwritten by TIPA and MedAllies.

The first quality report card will be issued in Q4 2009 based on 2008 data for HEDIS measures and EHR measures. It will also show whether a practice reached NCQA Level 2 medical home.

Initially, two to four measures will be chosen from the list of EHR measures. In subsequent report cards, starting in 2010, more EHR-based clinical metrics will be included. National standards work for EHR based measures is underway.

In the meantime, the 2009 report card will rely on non-standardized reporting from EHRs. THINC will work with one vendor to generate custom reports for the clinical quality measures. 2009 incentive payments will be issued after the quality report card in Q4 2009. The health plans will put 20% of the incentive payments to the scores achieved in the quality metrics, and 80% will go towards the achievement of NCQA PPC-PCMH Medical Home Level 2 recognition.

The project evaluation is being done by Dr. Rainu Kaushal and Dr. Lisa Kern from Weill Cornell Medical College. Their goal is to look at the incremental effects of P4P incentives and the medical home implementation on quality and costs. The evaluation will use four years of data. The health plans have a five year contract with MedAllies for quality reporting. The project evaluation design should produce results that are rigorous enough to inform policy debate and health plans' designs for future incentive programs.

G) New Business

There being no new business, a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the public meeting.