

THINC RHIO, Inc.

Taconic Health Information Network and Community

Public Health Committee Meeting October 23, 2008

A meeting of the Public Health Committee of the THINC RHIO, INC., a New York not-for-profit corporation (the “Corporation”), was held on October 23, 2008, commencing at 12:00noon.

Participants:

Rana Ali (Dutchess); Michael Caldwell (Dutchess); Chris Dunleavy (Orange); Sherlita Amler (Putnam); Barbara Ilardi (Putnam); Loretta Molinari (Putnam); Oscar Alleyne (Rockland); Nancy McGraw (Sullivan); Renee Rechhia (Westchester); Joshua Lipsman (Westchester); Joline Frey (St.Francis Hospital); Craig Van Roekens, MD (VBMC)

A. John Blair, MD (MedAllies); Susan Stuard (THINC); Asha Upadhyay (THINC)

I. Welcome & Introductions

Susan welcomed the committee members and introduced Ivan Gotham from the NYSDOH who gave a presentation to the committee.

II. Overview of NYS DOH plans for the Universal Public Health Node(UPHN)

Susan Stuard informed the committee that work is proceeding on target with development of the functional specifications for UPHN. Susan noted that the CDC Health Information Exchange grant will end in February 2009 unless another year of funding is allocated by CDC.

III. Discussion of local health department access to UPHN data and IV. Discussion of public health reporting stream validation

Ivan Gotham discussed data streams and redundancy issues and also how local health departments can access UPHN data. Ivan Gotham’s presentation was titled “Public Health Information Exchange via the UPHN – A vision for Bi-Directional Communication within the Statewide Health Information Network of New York (SHIN-NY). He noted that NYS DOH’s goal is to establish an informatics framework which supports the bidirectional health information exchange partnerships between public health and clinical partners in local communities. The technical architecture for the UPHN is based on HHS, ONC, AHIC, and NHIN interoperability standards and common reusable core services. Information exchange is achieved through a federated services model, not a central database model, and it is designed to leverage emergent RHIO and electronic health record activity in New York State. .

Ivan Gotham reviewed the three functional components which are the core public health services, the UPHN and the Public Health Information Exchange Bus (PHIEB). He described the core public health services as common reusable services that support internal information exchange (within NYS DOH), integration and visualization as well as external facing services to provide information and value to external partners. The PHIEB will have routing, registry and messaging services between internal NYS DOH information systems and the core systems. It will facilitate message exchange with the external State Health Information Network for New York (SHIN-NY)

Ivan Gotham reviewed the NYSDOH application systems—ECLRS, CDESS, Syndromic Surveillance, HERDS, Registry Reporting, CHI2, VMS, OMS and CRA—and how they interface with the PHIEB. He

then reviewed the vision for the future state of New York State's health information exchange in which the PHIEB would be within the SHIN-NY to facilitate bi-directional exchange of health information between participating entities.

He said that the UPHN is a collection of services and operational policies designed to fulfill designated biosurveillance and public health reporting objectives by the exchange of data bi-directionally between RHIOs and public health agencies. The UPHN is a subset of the architecture of the SHIN-NY. It complies with the architectural parameters for full compatibility with other SHIN-NY domains beyond public health. It is based on a service oriented architectural (SOA) paradigm, and is implemented through web services operating through an enterprise service bus (ESB). He said that the UPHN has been developed as part of the statewide collaboration process with active participation across public and private sectors under leadership from NYSDOH.

The primary functionalities of the UPHN are: patient query, line-list query, anonymize/re-identify query, and analytic query. The public health scenarios include: public health investigation, 311 patient locator, tuberculosis all points bulletin, influenza surveillance, and syndromic surveillance.

Susan Stuard asked if NYS DOH has made any decisions about the mechanism by which local health department will access data from RHIOs. Ivan Gotham noted that initially access to data running over the UPHN would be accessed by local health departments via NYS DOH's Health Information Network (HIN).

Susan Stuard thanked Ivan Gotham for his presentation. She said it was very helpful in beginning to understand the magnitude of all that we are trying to achieve.

V. Questions and New business

Susan Stuard said she will propose a meeting schedule for 2009. Susan noted that at upcoming meetings we should discuss how best for THINC to work with the local health departments and involve them in the public health information exchange activities described by Ivan Gotham.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.