

Health Information Technology Oversight Council

May 2010 Update

Statewide Strategic HIE Plan Review and Input Opportunities

In September, the Federal Government, through the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, offered ARRA funds to assist with the acceleration of the development of HIE. Oregon applied for and received \$8.58M to plan and implement activities for statewide HIE. The planning process is underway with statewide strategic and operational plans due in August 2010 and includes a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process that has included surveys, community meetings, webinars, and a strategic workgroup.

The core of this work centers around the Oregon Health Authority's vision of Healthy Oregonians and the three key goals: Improved Patient Experience, Improved Population Health, and Lower Per Capita Costs. Given the complexity of this effort, which includes a rapidly changing regulatory, economic, political, and technical environment, the stakeholders and planning team have developed a strategy supported by the HITOC that includes the following key elements.

- A phased approach to planning and implementation
- State government in a role of facilitation, coordination and communication
- Adherence to federal standards and certifications as they evolve and the development of Oregon-specific standards, certifications and accountabilities
- Collaboration and support of HIE efforts underway through local Health Information Organizations

Given the volatility of the environment including regulatory change, the relative newness of the markets, technology maturity, systemic challenges, and economic and cultural challenges, the plan anticipates a phased approach so that efforts can be planned, timed, implemented, evaluated and refined as needed.

Join us at one of the following meetings to provide input on the Strategic Health Information Exchange Plan being released in mid-June. We will be gathering stakeholder input during six public meetings around the State, beginning with the June 17 HITOC meeting. Your feedback on the draft plan will further develop the final report submitted to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology in late August. We hope to see you at one of the following gatherings:

<p>Thursday, June 17, 2010 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Smith Memorial Student Union, Room 333 Portland State University Portland, OR 97207</p>	<p>Tuesday, July 13, 2010 8:30 am - 10:30 am Bay Area Hospital, Myrtle Room 1775 Thompson Road Coos Bay, Oregon 97420</p>
<p>Monday, June 28, 2010 7:00 am - 9:00 am Rogue Valley Medical Center Smullin Center Auditorium 2825 E. Barnett Road Medford, Oregon 97504</p>	<p>Tuesday, July 13, 2010 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Cow Creek Tribal Government Offices Conference Room 2371 NE Stephens Street Roseburg, Oregon 97470</p>
<p>Wednesday, June 30, 2010 9:30 am - 11:30 am Water's Edge Health & Wellness Center 551 Lone Pine Boulevard The Dalles, Oregon 97058</p>	<p>Wednesday, July 14, 2010 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm St. Charles Medical Center, room TBA 2500 NE Neff Road Bend, Oregon 97701</p>

About the Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC)

The Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC) was created by the passage of HB 2009 within the Oregon Health Authority. The Council is comprised of 11 individuals appointed by Governor Ted Kulongoski, and is charged with developing a statewide strategic plan for electronic health information exchange, coordinating public and private efforts to increase adoption of electronic health records, setting technology standards, ensuring privacy and security controls, and creating a sustainable business plan to support meaningful use of health information technology to lower costs and improve quality of patient care.

[HITOC Members](#)

Upcoming HITOC Meetings:

Thursday, June 3, 2010
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Oregon State Library, Room 103
250 Winter Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Thursday, June 17, 2010
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Smith Memorial Student Union,
Room 333
Portland State University
Portland, OR 97207

Upcoming Workgroup Meeting:

Thursday, May 27, 2010
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Clackamas Community College
Wilsonville Training Center
Rooms 111-112
29353 SW Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, Oregon 97070

What's Happening Around Oregon?

As was announced on the HITOC website last month, Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) will receive \$5.8 million through two stimulus grants through the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), which includes a \$3.1 million training grant to train 160 certificate and master's students in their informatics graduate program over the next three years.

We're pleased to be able to provide further details at this time about the OHSU graduate informatics training program, including information on the scholarship program made possible by the ONC training grant. Applications are now being accepted for this funding, which comes from the ONC's University-Based Training Program, and is part of their Health IT Workforce Development Program that aims to rapidly expand the workforce through a variety of educational opportunities. In the case of OHSU, this will involve tuition scholarships for 135 students in the Graduate Certificate program and 13 students in the Master of Biomedical Informatics (MBI) program over the next three years. The latter will also receive a stipend and student health insurance while enrolled in the program. Enrollment for both programs will begin in Fall 2010. Students not funded by the ONC scholarships will still be able to study in the program as they always have. For more details, please click on the following links:

<http://www.ohsuscholarships.info/>

<http://informaticsprofessor.blogspot.com/2010/05/onc-funded-scholarship-program-for-ohsu.html>

To qualify for funding, students must be US citizens or permanent residents; must not have been enrolled in an informatics educational program on December 17, 2009 or earlier; must commit to study in one of six ONC-designated job roles; and must commit to completing the Graduate Certificate program in one year or the MBI program full-time and on-campus over one-and-a-half years.

The OHSU Biomedical Informatics Graduate Program offers a variety of certificates and degrees in three tracks: clinical informatics (CI), bioinformatics and computational biology (BCB), and health information management (HIM). The CI and HIM tracks are focused on the healthcare and public health arenas, while the BCB track is focused on translational bioinformatics and personalized medicine. The ONC funding is limited to the CI and HIM tracks. More details about the program are available on the OHSU Department of Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology (DMICE) Web site: <http://www.ohsu.edu/ohsuedu/academic/som/dmice/academics/programs.cfm>

Sebelius Includes Health IT Items in List of HHS' Top Strategic Priorities

HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius included health IT in [a report released](#) in early May outlining the department's nine priorities and four interagency efforts, *Federal Computer Week* reports.

The report, titled "The Secretary's Strategic Initiatives and Key Interagency Collaborations," notes that, as HHS works to implement the new national reform law, it will "encourage widespread adoption and meaningful use of health IT while ensuring the privacy and security of electronic health records."

HHS also will use IT to:

- Foster open government;
- Improve food safety;
- Launch an HHS anti-fraud initiative;
- Expedite medical innovations; and
- Improve public dissemination of health information.

The report also notes that under the 2009 economic stimulus package, HHS will:

- Promote EHR adoption;
- Invest in biomedical and patient-centered research; and
- Track and publically report results of stimulus fund spending.

Lipowicz, *Federal Computer Week*, 5/4. Reprinted from May 5 2010 *iHealthBeat*.

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Recent Articles of Interest

- [Recent Graduates Eye Health IT Jobs as Top Employment Option](#) (iHealthBeat)
- [Execs View Telehealth As Game Changer](#) (InformationWeek)