OMA Technology Committee Comments on Oregon Draft Strategic Plan for Health IT

We greatly appreciate all of the work done by the Office of Health IT, HITOC and all agencies involved in this important field. This is a comprehensive and well laid-out strategy. The OMA Technology Committee has reviewed the draft *Strategic Plan for Health Information Technology* and submits the following comments for consideration:

Oregon must require standards of interoperability and data accessibility between systems and between EHRs.

We strongly support strategy 3 on interoperability but feel that the language in the plan should be stronger and more specific; standards should be required, not encouraged. True interoperability is key, and in spite of ongoing discussions around this topic, it has not materialized. Interoperability between EHR systems within and outside a given clinic, CCO or health system is necessary to achieve the efficiencies and quality goals expected of HIT and coordinated care. There are financial disincentives for EHR vendors to create compatible software and for health systems to freely exchange information with one another; perhaps this could be addressed through leveraging financial and other incentives from “transformed" and coordinated organizations. Leadership is needed from the State to identify standards with provider input and require all software vendors, providers and systems operating in the state to adopt the standard. The OMA would be happy to help convene interested providers and assist in standard development.

The State must resolve barriers to the exchange of protected health information among providers.

If physical, dental, mental and behavioral health are to be truly coordinated, providers must be able to share and access the information they need to provide quality patient care. We feel that significant barriers to accessing needed patient information remain, and we welcome the state`s guidance and even intervention to resolve these barriers. For example, it would be very helpful to have something similar to the ALERT system where providers could input and access general patient information, such as medications, in a centralized, statewide information depot.

It is crucial to reduce the burden of reporting requirements on providers and on CCOs.

We applaud Strategy 7’s call to streamline data reporting requirements.

The OMA would like to offer assistance and expertise in the implementation of the strategic plan.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on this draft strategic plan.

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