



NEWS RELEASE

Date: June 14, 2010

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Public meetings: Statewide health information technology plan

The Oregon Health Authority is launching a series of six public meetings around the state to gather input on a statewide health information exchange plan. The meetings will be hosted by the Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC).

As Oregon works on lowering the cost and improving the quality of health care, the ability for health care providers to easily and securely share information about patients and treatments gains even more importance. Electronic health information exchange will provide the means for providers to share medical records electronically so the right information is available for patient care when and where it's needed.

OHA and a group of stakeholders drafted a plan that will be released in mid-June so interested parties can provide feedback at the public meetings.

HITOC, stakeholders and the planning team have developed a strategy that includes:

- A phased approach to planning and implementation of health information exchange;
- Oregon Health Authority in a role of facilitation, coordination, communication and oversight;
- Adherence to federal standards and certifications as they evolve;
- Development of Oregon-specific standards, certifications and accountabilities; and
- Local health information organizations collaborating and developing local and regional efforts to provide health information exchange.

(more)

Stakeholder engagement is an on-going process that includes surveys, community meetings, webinars, and a strategic workgroup.

Work on statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE) is being funded through the federal stimulus grant. A final report on Oregon's plan is due to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology in late August.

Below is a schedule of meetings across the state:

Portland. Thursday, June 17, 1 – 5 p.m. (at the HITOC meeting)
Smith Memorial Student Union, Room 333, Portland State University

Medford. Monday, June 28, 7 – 9 a.m.
Rogue Valley Medical Center, Smullin Center Auditorium, 2825 E Barnett Rd.

The Dalles. Wednesday, June 30, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Water's Edge Health & Wellness Center, 551 Lone Pine Blvd.

Coos Bay. Tuesday, July 13, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Bay Area Hospital, Myrtle Room, 1775 Thompson Rd.

Roseburg. Tuesday, July 13, 3 – 5 p.m.
Cow Creek Tribal Government Offices, Conference Room, 2371 NE Stephens St.

Bend. Wednesday, July 14, 1 – 3 p.m.
St Charles Medical Center, room TBA, 2500 NE Neff Rd.

By July 2011, most health-related programs in the state will be joined together to form the Oregon Health Authority. The Health Authority will improve the lifelong health of Oregonians; increase the quality, reliability and availability of care for all Oregonians; and lower or contain the cost of care so it is affordable to everyone. OHA is overseen by a nine-member, citizen-led board called the Oregon Health Policy Board. To learn more about OHA, visit www.oregon.gov/OHA or connect with us at www.Facebook.com/OregonHealthAuthority.

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