



August 9, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

Acumentra Health strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

Acumentra Health is a nonprofit healthcare quality improvement consultancy dedicated to improving the quality and effectiveness of healthcare. We have over 25 years of service to providers, payors, and consumers in the Pacific Northwest. Acumentra Health has been Oregon's Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) since 1984, working with beneficiaries, healthcare professionals, and the general public to improve healthcare quality and protect the Medicare Trust Fund. We have served as a Medicaid External Quality Review Organization for Oregon and Washington for over 15 years, providing an array of services to strengthen care delivery and integration of behavioral and physical health services to individuals and families enrolled in Medicaid.

Acumentra Health works directly with healthcare providers, community partners, and the public to foster an environment in which every person gets the right care every time. We collaborate with practitioners, providers, health plans, public agencies, and private organizations on a wide range of healthcare improvement projects and programs. Our work reaches all age and economic levels, and all settings of care.

Acumentra Health is constituted as a physician membership organization under federal statute, having over 1,200 actively practicing physician members representing many specialties in Oregon. By joining, physicians have a voice, and a role in electing Acumentra Health's Board of Trustees and direct participation as a physician reviewer or a collaborator in a quality improvement project. We engage many more practitioners and providers through sponsorship or collaboration on national, statewide, and community improvement initiatives ranging from serving as a state-based "node" for the Institute for Healthcare Improvement sponsored 5 Million Lives Campaign to the Oregon Rural Collaborative, Oregon Diabetes Collaborative, and Oregon Asthma Project to improve care of diabetes and asthma in primary care practices. We partner with many provider associations or provider-focused organizations and agencies with statewide reach.

Since 2005, we have been working with providers to implement, correctly use, and report on EHR functions that are the basis of Meaningful Use objectives and criteria, not only for 2011, but into the future. Examples of our EHR-related work include:

Doctors Office Quality IT (DOQ-IT) Initiative. Following intensive training and a pilot project aimed at assessing practices' readiness to implement EHR systems, Acumentra Health assisted Oregon primary care practices through the Medicare-funded Doctor's Office Quality-Information Technology (DOQ-IT) initiative. DOQ-IT assisted more than 250 Oregon clinicians in 47 practices. During the initiative, Acumentra Health convened a technical conference, "EHR Solutions 2006," to promote EHR and resource development. By the end of the initiative, a third of these practices had reached a level of effective use of their EHRs that qualified them as ready for population-based care. HIT services provided to the practices included:

- vendor neutral assistance regarding vendor selection
- technical and project management support for implementation
- workflow redesign to take advantage of EHR features
- training in use of EHR functions for more effective management of patients with chronic conditions
- support for clinical data collection in preparation for pay-for-performance
- opportunities for networking with other practices using the same system or at a similar implementation stage

CMS referred to Acumentra Health's success in this project as "a model for the nation." Acumentra Health recognized the effectiveness of partnering with local independent practice associations (IPAs) that were helping their members evaluate EHR systems and seeking to resolve implementation issues. Acumentra Health organized the Oregon IPA Collaborative in 2006 as a statewide consortium to promote HIT and continues to convene the IPAs for information exchange. The collaborative group represents 4300 providers in the IPAs' member practices.

EHR Preventive Care Initiative. Acumentra Health is assisting 41 Oregon primary care practices in using their electronic health record (EHR) systems for improving preventive care services and reporting clinical data. This initiative expands the previous 3-year project that helped more than 40 practices implement EHRs under the DOQ-IT initiative.

Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). Acumentra Health supports PQRI, a Medicare-sponsored program that provides a financial incentive to physicians and other practitioners for voluntary reporting of quality data. Acumentra Health serves as an intermediary to inform Oregon physicians about participation in the program.

Prescription Drug Safety Project. Acumentra Health is working with Oregon Medicare Advantage plans and Prescription Benefit Managers on a multi-year project to improve drug safety for Medicare beneficiaries.

We lead and facilitate the Oregon Independent Physician Association (IPA) Collaborative, some members of whom are EHR vendors or resellers for the practices we assist, in order to exchange

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
August 9, 2010
Page 3

information about system functions and keep the vendors informed about the needs of primary care providers to achieve CMS meaningful use and reporting objectives—for example, use alerts and care plans to improve performance on Medicare preventive services, capture data in the right places, and produce valid reports to submit to CMS. The Collaborative has also come to serve as a safe table for, in some cases, competing organizations to share best practices, learn about state and federal health policy, and discuss developments in the HIT field.

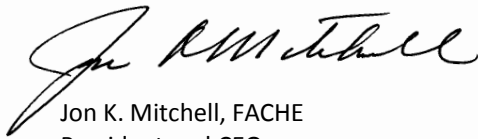
Throughout this time of active engagement with the provider community, we have coordinated with and participated in statewide coordination efforts. Within the framework of the Oregon's statewide strategic and operational HIE plans, Acumentra Health will continue to participate in and support Oregon's HIE planning and implementation efforts by coordination of our ongoing HIT-related activities with Oregon's Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC), advocating for coordination and collaboration among other stakeholders, participation in HITOC workgroups, and providing stakeholder input, through representation from on HITOC through the IPA Collaborative.

There are many activities in various stages of progress throughout the state that must be coordinated for optimal impact, but also demonstrate the great potential within Oregon. These include the planning and development of local health information organizations (HIOs), the creation and start-up of a statewide Regional Extension Center, initiatives by the State Medicaid Agency, and EHR pilots. As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local HIOs in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

Acumentra Health looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon K. Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

Jon K. Mitchell, FACHE
President and CEO



August 3, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

Asante Health System strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

Asante Health System looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Hetz
Chief Information Officer
Asante Health System

ASANTE[®]
HEALTH SYSTEM



Bay Area Hospital

The Medical Center for Oregon's South Coast

August 10, 2010

1775 Thompson Road
Coos Bay, OR 97420
(541) 269-8111
www.bayareahospital.org

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

It is with pleasure that Bay Area Hospital strongly endorses the strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. Both our hospital as well as our local Health Information Organization (HIO) have been involved in this process, a true public-private partnership with the ultimate goal of assisting in improving the quality of care to the patients we serve.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

The plans, as developed, take full advantage of local and regional HIO's such as our own Bay Area Community Informatics Agency, reducing redundancy and cost and providing for localized customer support. Spring boarding off of the foundation of these HIO's the same plans also provide the framework for increased cooperation and innovation throughout our state.

Bay Area Hospital looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Adams Jr.
Director, Information Services



1775 Thompson Road
Coos Bay, OR 97420
(541) 269-8582

August 11, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

Bay Area Community Informatics Agency (BACIA) strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish. BACIA is one of the first HIOs in Oregon to successfully exchange patient information by promoting quality and cost savings to the community. BACIA's current expansion efforts will extend into the surrounding communities on the remote South coast of Oregon.

Bay Area Community Informatics Agency looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Oded Shulsinger".

Oded Shulsinger, M.D.
Medical Director
Bay Area Community Informatics Agency

To promote the electronic exchange of data between South Coast Health Care Organizations in order to provide Caregivers accurate and up to date information, improve workflow efficiency, and enhance the safety and quality of patient care.

COQUILLE VALLEY HOSPITAL



**“Improving lives
through exceptional
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940 E. Fifth • Coquille, Oregon 97423 • (541) 396-3101 • Fax (541) 396-5760 • www.cvhospital.org

August 18, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

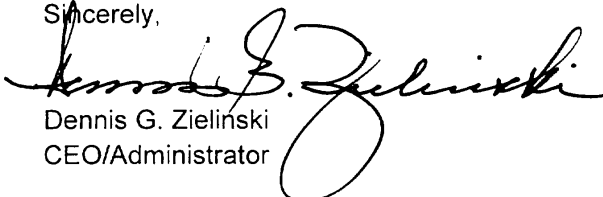
Coquille Valley Hospital District strongly supports Oregon’s strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

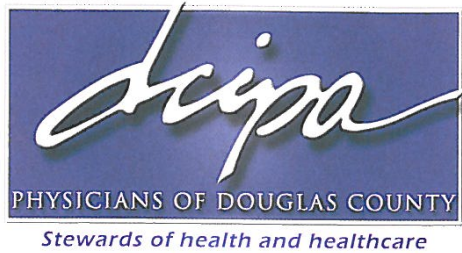
We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through its developing statewide health information exchange, thus allowing health-related information to be made conveniently available where and when it is needed, thus improving the care and treatment we provide to our patients and the people we serve throughout the State.

As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that our system will be able to take advantage of efficiencies by connecting with existing locally supported sub-systems and the State’s emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE. We believe this to be the most effective strategy for our State, and one that will, at the same time, provide an environment conducive to innovation, flexibility and collaboration, while promoting local influence.

Coquille Valley Hospital looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the aforementioned strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,


Dennis G. Zielinski
CEO/Administrator



August 16, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

The Physicians of Douglas County (DCIPA) strongly support Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We endorse the vision, goals, and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans and believe that, with federal funding available through this program, Oregon, as a state, will make significant progress in improving health outcomes and containing the costs of health care through the statewide health information exchange.

As an organization with 70 percent of the medical records in our county of 105,000, we believe that it is critical for the state to utilize existing and emerging local and regional health information organizations (HIOs) as the foundation for a statewide HIE.

DCIPA looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald R. Preston", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ronald R. Preston, CEO
DCIPA, the Physicians of Douglas County



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Corrections

Office of the Director
2575 Center Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-4667
(503) 945-0920
FAX (503) 373-1173

August 12, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

The Oregon Department of Corrections strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

With 400 plus inmates arriving at our Wilsonville intake center monthly, our agency can speak directly to the challenges of providing patient care in an environment where little or no patient history is provided. Similar challenges exist for community providers treating the hundreds of inmates our agency releases each month.

As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local Health Information Organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

The Oregon Department of Corrections looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

Max Williams
Director

FW



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services Division of Medical Assistance Programs

500 Summer Street NE, E49

Salem, Oregon 97301-1079

Voice - (503) 945-5772

FAX - (503) 373-7689

TTY - (503) 378-6791



August 18, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W., Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

The Division of Medical Assistance Programs (DMAP), Oregon's Medicaid program, strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. Our plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders, including our program (Medicaid).

DMAP was integrally involved in the development of the strategic plan, including having our Medicaid Chief Information Officer (CIO) participate on the Strategic Workgroup. We also have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the state Medicaid program (Division of Medical Assistance Programs, Office of Information Services) and Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC) as represented by the Office of Health Policy and Research. Our agencies will work together to identify common business and health care outcome priorities both in the context of carrying out the ONC-sponsored grant for HIE and in the Medicaid P-APD grant. Specifically, the MOU calls for the participation of Medicaid HIT Planning and subject matter experts in the Medicaid portion of this plan for HIE. It also states that the HIE plan will support Medicaid providers and connect DHS/OHA programs to providers to allow for the exchange of health-related data. Other connections are our Steering Committee of the Medicaid HIT project which includes Carol Robinson, State HIT Coordinator and Rick Howard, vice chair of HITOC and CIO of the Department of Human Services/Oregon Health Authority. Rick Howard and I are the executive sponsors of the Medicaid HIT project. Also, in my role as State Medicaid Director, I was recently named an ex-officio member of HITOC.

As a continuation of this close, collaborative relationship, I enthusiastically endorse and support the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides towards an interoperable statewide health information exchange. Medicaid is very invested in the creation of a statewide health information exchange; particularly as such an exchange can greatly benefit Oregonians who receive Medicaid and other medical assistance programs. A statewide HIE would ensure care coordination, improve quality of care, and reduce costs to the state for our clients, the most vulnerable in Oregon: families in poverty, kids in foster care, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and those with mental and substance abuse disorders.

It is anticipated that Oregon's Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) will be able to support the bi-directional exchange of electronic health information with HIOs in Oregon. This will be achieved through local HIOs using central shared services that will be able to connect with Oregon's MMIS. In addition, the accreditation process for HIOs and widespread adoption and use of certified electronic

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David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Page 2

health record (EHR) systems will allow for increased information connectivity and information exchange between the state's MMIS, managed care organizations and HIOs within Oregon.

Oregon's Medicaid HIT Planning Team, and more broadly, DMAP, will be responsible for the monitoring and administration of meaningful use criteria for providers who are eligible to receive meaningful use (MU) incentive payments. The Medicaid HIT Planning Team is actively working on and coordinating with HITOC and other key stakeholders to facilitate the program for administering MU incentive payments.

In the end, we will be guided by the goal of ensuring that the greatest number of eligible providers can participate in HIE, which will be accomplished through ongoing coordination and partnerships among HITOC, Oregon Health Authority/Department of Human Services and the Medicaid HIT Planning Team. Existing and planned technologies including MMIS and Medicaid Information Technology Architecture (MITA) will support Oregon providers serving the 450,000 clients of the Medicaid and Oregon Health Plan in qualifying and demonstrating meaningful use.

I look forward to working with HITOC, the soon to be formed Office of Health IT and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans submitted to you. We believe these efforts will help Oregon meet our goals of quality and affordable health care for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Mohr Peterson".

Judy Mohr Peterson
Assistant Director, Department of Human Services
Administrator, Division of Medical Assistance Programs



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services

Office of the Director
500 Summer St. NE, E-15
Salem, OR 97301-1097

503-947-5110

Fax: 503-378-2897

TTY: 503-947-5080

August 17, 2010



David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W., Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

As the Director of the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) and Director-designee of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), I am pleased to offer my support for Oregon's strategic and operational plans for Health Information Exchange (HIE) being submitted to you as part of the State HIE Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders:

DHS/OHA has a great stake in the development and implementation of widespread and sustainable Health Information Exchange in Oregon. Implementing statewide HIE will be essential to support both the state and federal health reform efforts that have been launched to improve quality, improve health and contain rising costs.

I am pleased to share that as part of our internal restructuring under Oregon's health reform legislation (HB2009) to form OHA and reform DHS, we are creating a new Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT) as a shared service for both agencies to coordinate all stakeholders around the key issues of Health Information Technology, including HIE. The staffing for the Health Information Technology Oversight Council (HITOC) will be housed under the new office under the guidance of Carol Robinson, Oregon's State HIT Coordinator and

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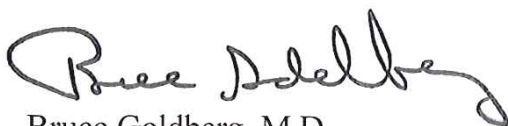


HITOC Director The creation of OHIT, reporting to Rick Howard, Chief Information Officer for DHS and OHA, will accelerate the necessary planning, communication, coordination and policy changes needed to advance current and future health and human service reform goals through the enabling use of information technology. This coordination will take place across the agencies within OHA and DHS, as well as with local government entities and private sector stakeholders, leading to more efficient use of public and private sector funds, better use of health data for policy decisions and ultimately, improved health outcomes.

I enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide Health Information Exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

Within the Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Human Services, we will all be working together on the next phase of this effort to ensure the successful implementation of statewide Health Information Exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Goldberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping tail.

Bruce Goldberg, M.D.

Director, Oregon Department of Human Services

Director-designee, Oregon Health Authority



610 N.W. 11TH
HERMISTON, OR 97838
(541) 667-3400

August 18, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

Good Shepherd Health Care System (GSHCS) strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. As a contributing member of HITOC representing rural hospitals, I'm confident in and satisfied with the approach taken to ensure these plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders. The milestones identified in the strategic plan for Health Information Interoperability and Exchange that GSHCS has for Physician Clinics and the Hospital map directly to the phased approach identified in the State's plan.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

Good Shepherd Health Care System looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Rizk', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Rob Rizk
Director, Information Technology
Good Shepherd Health Care System
Hermiston, OR

August 6, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

Gorge Health Connect, Inc. supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and healthcare.

We strongly believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

Gorge Health Connect, Inc. looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,



Brian Ahier
President, Gorge Health Connect, Inc.
1700 E 19th Street
The Dalles, OR 97058
(541) 288-1066



August 16, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

HIMSS Oregon strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

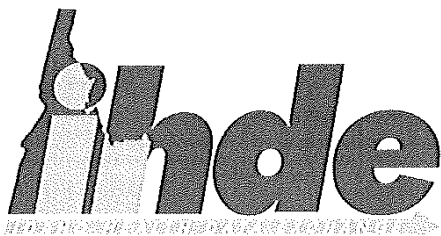
As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

HIMSS Oregon is proud that the HIMSS national organization selected our state for its 2010 State of the Year Award due in large part to the innovative approaches local and state leaders have taken in regards to HIE. Therefore, on behalf of our membership, the HIMSS Oregon board looks forward to continuing its collaborations with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Finnerty". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Tom Finnerty
President, HIMSS Oregon



Idaho Health Data Exchange, Inc.
P.O. Box 6978
Boise, Idaho 83707

August 17, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

The Idaho Health Data Exchange (IHDE) strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

As Idaho shares a medical trading area with Oregon, development of health information exchange capacity on Oregon is critical to ensure the quality and coordination of care for our shared patients. With health information exchange, one size does not fit all, and IHDE supports Oregon's strategy of utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE.

The Idaho Health Data Exchange looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,



LaDonna Larson
Executive Director

August 6, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

Kaiser Permanente Northwest strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

We support Oregon's Health Information Technology Oversight Council's (HITOC) application and its commitment to:

- Adhere to the national interoperability standards for HIT and HIE set by US DHHS, consistent with the federal Strategic Plan for HIT;
- Support multiple qualified participant HIOs that are free to choose technical and organizational solutions versus any specific vendor, product, or data source;
- Operate transparently regarding policy development, strategic activities, vendor selections, implementation plan development, pricing models, etc.;
- Give preferential status (or establish other low barriers to entry) for safety net providers, rural clinics and underserved communities;
- Prohibit secondary uses of data and avoid HIE approaches that rely on data repositories;
- Establish fees and costs that are fair and reasonably calculated to minimally impact overall health care costs and that do not require any material changes to existing health care financing and reimbursement arrangements;

Kaiser Permanente looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,



Homer L. Chin, MD
Associate Medical Director, Clinical Information Systems
Kaiser Northwest Permanente
500 NE Multnomah Street, Ste. 100
Portland, OR 97232
503-813-4578
Homer.L.Chin@kp.org

Kaiser Permanente Building
500 N.E. Multnomah Street, Suite 100
Portland, OR 97232-2099
503-813-3860



August 3, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

Lipa strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open process with the support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We support the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the best strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

Lipa looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rhonda Busek".

Rhonda Busek
Chief Operations Officer
Lipa

Mid Rogue
Independent Physician
ASSOCIATION

"Physicians working together to provide quality, cost-effective health care to our community."

7/28/2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

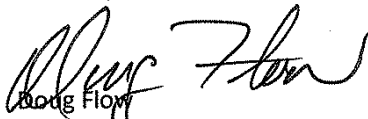
Mid Rogue Independent Physician Association strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

Mid Rogue Independent Physician Association looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,



Doug Florn
Chief Executive Officer
Mid Rogue Independent Physician Association



Mid IPA Valley
INDEPENDENT PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION

**MARION POLK COMMUNITY HEALTH PLAN • MARION POLK COMMUNITY HEALTH PLAN-ADVANTAGE
MVIPA EMPLOYEE BENEFIT TRUST • PHYSICIAN'S CHOICE FOUNDATION • DocPAC**

August 3, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

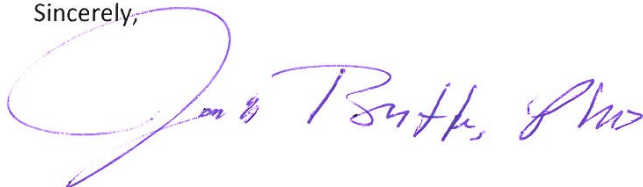
Mid-Valley Independent Physicians Association (MVIPA) strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

As a member of a developing local Health Information Organization (HIO), we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local HIOs in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

MVIPA looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,



Jan L. Buffa, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer



August 16, 2010

**NORTHWEST
PORTLAND
AREA
INDIAN
HEALTH
BOARD**

Burns-Paiute Tribe
Chehalis Tribe
Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Colville Tribe
Coos, Suislaw &
Lower Umpqua Tribe
Coquille Tribe
Cow Creek Tribe
Cowlitz Tribe
Grand Ronde Tribe
Hoh Tribe
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Kalispel Tribe
Klamath Tribe
Kootenai Tribe
Lower Elwha Tribe
Lummi Tribe
Makah Tribe
Muckleshoot Tribe
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Nisqually Tribe
Nooksack Tribe
NW Band of Shoshone Tribe
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Puyallup Tribe
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Quinault Tribe
Samish Indian Nation
Sauk-Suiattle Tribe
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Suquamish Tribe
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Warm Springs Tribe
Yakama Nation

2121 SW Broadway Drive
Suite 300
Portland, OR 97201
(503) 228-4185
(503) 228-8182 FAX
www.NPAIHB.org

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

Joe Finkbonner, RPh, MHA
Executive Director



30 July 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW, Suite 729-D
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of the OCHIN's 35 community health center members and the Oregon Primary Care Association's 29 community health center members, who collectively comprise more than 200 primary care clinics serving more than one million of our nation's most underserved patients, we offer our strong joint support for Oregon's strategic and operational plan for a statewide health information exchange (HIE).

Oregon's plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders including both OCHIN and OPCA as well as the foundational partners engaged in ONC-funded HIT education, workforce development, and regional extension initiatives. We fully endorse the vision, goals, and objectives outlined in the enclosed strategic and operational plans, and we are confident that, with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will accelerate ongoing efforts to achieve Triple Aim objectives via a comprehensive plan for statewide HIE that enables information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care – a cornerstone of the patient-centered medical home.

We also believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and we support this as the preferred method for facilitating innovative and cooperative partnerships centered around the transformation of health care delivery, research, quality improvement, and policy.

Both OCHIN and OPCA look forward to working with The Oregon Health Information Technology Oversight Council and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work collaboratively to ensure the successful implementation of statewide HIE in Oregon outlined in the State's proposed strategic and operational plans.

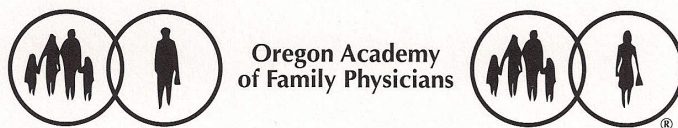
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AS", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Abigail Sears
CEO
OCHIN, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Hostetler", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Craig Hostetler
Executive Director
Oregon Primary Care Association



Oregon Academy
of Family Physicians

August 4, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W., Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

The Oregon Academy of Family Physicians strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

The Oregon Academy of Family Physicians looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

Ariel Smits, MD
President

809 N. Russell St.
Suite 204
Portland, OR 97227

PHONE
503-528-0961

FAX
503-528-0996

EMAIL
kg@oafp.org

WEBSITE
www.oafp.org

President
ARIEL SMITS, MD, MPH
Portland

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Portland

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Springfield

BONNIE REAGAN, MD
Portland

Resident Director
CHRISANTHY ZOWTIAK, MD
Klamath Falls

Student Director
MICHAEL GOODWIN
Portland

Executive Director
KERRY GONZALES

Project Director
LYNN M. ESTUESTA



August 13, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of Oregon's 58 acute care hospitals, the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems would like to pledge our support for Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program.

Oregon's plans were developed through an open and transparent process with robust engagement and support of key stakeholders, including acute care hospitals and the hospital association. Hospitals are critical community players in initiating and sustaining health information exchange and our state-designated agency, the HITOC, enjoyed adequate representation from the hospital community. With guidance from our hospital members, the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems offered written and verbal testimony at various stages of Oregon's HIE plan development. We have been pleased at how responsive the HITOC has been in responding to our concerns as it moved forward with revisions to the plan.

The Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems supports the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and we believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange. We are especially supportive of the plan's commitment to build on existing and emerging local health information organizations as the foundation for health information exchange.

The hospital association looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort.


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin J. Moody". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robin Moody
OAHHS Director of Public Policy

4000 Kruse Way Place, Bldg. 2, Suite 100
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97035
503-636-2204 Fax 503-636-8310



<p>Board of Directors</p> <p>Chair Dale C. Johnson V.P. Corporate Human Resources Blount, International Inc.</p> <p>Vice Chair Ken Van Osdol Total Compensation Manager SAIF Corporation</p> <p>Secretary Joan Kapowich Administrator PEBB + OEBC</p> <p>Treasurer Pamela Haworth Director, Compensation & Benefits Tektronix, Inc.</p> <p>Mary Adams Director of Human Resources Lane Transit District</p> <p>Nancy Clarke Executive Director Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation</p> <p>Kathleen Hinman Human Resource Analyst City of Springfield</p> <p>Darryl Saunders Global Benefits Manager Mentor Graphics Corporation</p> <p>Barney Speight Director, Healthcare Purchasing Oregon Health Authority</p> <p>John Worcester Corporate Manager of Benefits & Compensation EVRAS Inc. NA</p> <p>Elizabeth Wright Global Benefits Design Intel Corporation</p>	<p>August 18, 2010</p> <p>David Blumenthal, MD, MPP National Coordinator for Health Information Technology Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue S.W. Suite 729-D Washington, D.C. 20201</p> <p>Dear Dr. Blumenthal:</p> <p>The Oregon Coalition of Health Care Purchasers (OCHCP) strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.</p> <p>We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.</p> <p>As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.</p> <p>OCHCP is a non-profit membership organization whose mission is to use the collective voice of employers to drive toward a high value health care system; to improve employers' ability to contract for high quality and cost-effective health care for their employees/members; and to help employers steer their employees/members toward optimal health. Founded in 1998, OCHCP presently represent over one million Oregonians through the employers who purchase health benefits on their behalf.</p> <p>I served on the Health Information Interoperability Advisory Committee that developed the initial report for the Oregon Health Fund Board. Consequently, I am very familiar with, and support, the HITOC work.</p> <p>OCHCP looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.</p> <p>Sincerely,  Barbara Prowe Executive Director</p>
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OREGON HEALTH CARE
QUALITY
CORPORATION
A nonprofit partnership for quality improvement

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July 29, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W., Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

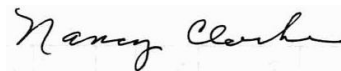
Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care. As the state's leading organization for a standardized approach to quality reporting to the public and to practitioners, we are committed to helping make this vision a success.

As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,



Nancy Clarke, Executive Director



Two Centerpointe Drive, Ste 570
Lake Oswego, OR 97035
503.697.7294

BOARD OF DIRECTORS July 28, 2010

Dick Gibson, MD
BOARD CHAIR

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W. Suite 729-D

Andy Davidson
TREASURER

Washington, D.C. 20201

Oregon Association of Hospitals &
Health Systems

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

Christopher Tamarin
SECRETARY

Oregon Economic & Community
Development Dept

Oregon Health Network (OHN) strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

Deborah Ameen
The Asante Foundation

Michael Carr
Providence Health System

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

Bridget Haggerty
Oregon Health & Science University

Kim Hoffman
Telehealth Alliance of Oregon

D. Vaughn Holbrook
The Regence Group

Vanessa McLaughlin
Edith Forge

Rob Rizk
Good Shepherd Health Care System

As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

Abby Sears
Oregon Community Health
Information Network

OHN looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

Kim Lamb
Executive Director
Oregon Health Network



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL INFORMATICS
AND CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

Mail code: BICC • 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Rd. • Portland, OR, 97239-3098
TEL: 503 494-4502 • FAX: 503 494-4551

August 18, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

I am writing this letter to indicate the strong support of the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) Department of Medical Informatics & Clinical Epidemiology (DMICE) for Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide HIE allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

As you know, our department has been a substantial recipient of funding from other HITECH programs, most notably your Workforce Development Program. We are engaged with the Oregon HIE effort. We hope that some of the students we train to join the future workforce will gain practical experience during their studies and/or employment after they complete their studies with this effort.

OHSU DMICE looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William R. Hersh, MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William Hersh, M.D.
Professor and Chair



August 18, 2010

**Information Technology
Group**

Mail code ITG09
1515 SW 5th Avenue, Ste 900
Portland, OR 97201
tel 503 494-0656
fax 503 494-7411
www.ohsu.edu/itg

Bridget Haggerty
*Vice President and
Chief Information Officer*
haggerty@ohsu.edu

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W. Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

Oregon Health & Science University strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders. I had the privilege of participating in some of the open forums which were held across the state in order to obtain feedback on the draft plan and shape the final proposal that the State has prepared and can say without reservation that interest and engagement in the plan was strong and came from a diverse population.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

OHSU believes that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and local cooperative partnership to flourish, establishing the framework for a information sharing network which may extend beyond the strict geographical borders of Oregon.

We look forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B. Haggerty", written in dark ink.

Bridget Haggerty



August 18, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W., Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

In particular, the OMA supports the "opt out" system for use and disclosure of protected health information in an EHR and we hope to be part of the soon to be formed HITOC Legal and Policy Workgroup to provide input on the appropriate policies and mechanisms to make that consent model successful. While we fully support patient privacy, the best quality health care relies on ready access to all relevant health information about the patient.

In addition, the OMA supports efforts to measure and improve health care quality and thus supports HITOC's statements in the plans regarding use of an EHR to collect important quality data.

We know that one key goal has to be that every physician, including rural physicians, are able to participate in the statewide HIE. Identifying and developing strategies to meet gaps will be critical, and we are encouraged to see that effort being a key element of the strategic plan.

11740 SW 68th Parkway, Suite 100
Portland, Oregon 97223-9038
phone **503.619.8000**
fax **503.619.0609**
www.theOMA.org

Page 2

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP

August 18, 2010

As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

The OMA looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Bryson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "B".

Joanne K. Bryson, CAE

Executive Director



August 12, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W. Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

The Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

ONA is a professional association and labor union representing registered nurses whose mission is to advocate for nursing and quality health care. Through the Nurse Practitioners of Oregon (NPO), ONA provides support to nurse practitioners with independent practice authority.

One of the pleasures I have in my role as Executive Director of ONA is to support the leadership team of NPO. As Eligible Professionals (EP) under Meaningful Use, Nurse Practitioners are positioned to play a key role in advancing the use of electronic health records to achieve meaningful use to help support improving quality and containing costs in our health care system. Registered nurses, while not defined as Eligible Professionals under meaningful use, will certainly play critical roles in the success of the adoption and implementation of electronic health records and health information exchange throughout our health care delivery system.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans and look forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan E. King".

Susan King, MS, RN
Executive Director

18765 SW Boones Ferry Rd., Ste 200•Tualatin, OR 97062• P 503.293.0011 800.634.3552•F 503.293.0013

•E-mail: ona@oregonrn.org•www.oregonrn.org

A Constituent Association of the American Nurses Association



Oregon Office of Rural Health

Mail code: L593
3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road
Portland, Oregon 97239-3098
tel 503 494-4450 | fax 503 494-4798
toll free 866 674-4376
www.ohsu.edu/oregonruralhealth

August 16, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

The Oregon Office of Rural Health strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

The Office of Rural Health works closely with Oregon's rural communities and we know one size does not fit all. We believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

The Oregon Office of Rural Health looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Ekblad". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Scott Ekblad, Director

Regional Information Services



July 30, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

Providence Health & Services, Oregon strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

Providence Health & Services, Oregon looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren O'Brien", written in a cursive style.

Laureen M. O'Brien
Chief Information Officer
Providence Health & Services, Oregon



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services
Public Health Division
800 NE Oregon Street
Portland, OR 97232-2162
Voice (971) 673-1300
FAX (971) 673-1361
TTY (971) 673-0372

August 17, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201



Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

The Public Health Division of the Oregon Health Authority supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. Public Health staff participated in the workgroup that helped create the plan, and I'm particularly pleased that meaningful use scenarios related to public health are included in these plans.

I was also pleased to learn recently that your Office has recommended that the Public Health Director have a real role in the governance of the State Designated Entity that will be implementing our HIE plans. Because of this I recently was invited to participate as an ex-officio member on the Council that is overseeing these efforts, and I'm pleased to have that opportunity. While we have had good relationships with the staff supporting the development of Oregon's HIE system to date, this new opportunity will help ensure that public health needs are sufficiently prominent as these plans move forward into implementation.

In my role on this governance body I expect that I will be advocating for a stronger statewide HIE presence that will facilitate public health use of HIE systems, and allocation of sufficient resources to ensure effective implementation of the public health meaningful use objectives.

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Health Information Exchange has the potential not only to bend the cost curve for health care, but also to improve the public's health. With the federal funding available through this program and appropriate local guidance, I am confident that Oregon will make significant strides in these areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mel Kohn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mel Kohn, MD, MPH
Director and State Health Officer
Public Health Division
Oregon Department of Human Services



August 4, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear David,

I am writing in strong support of Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

As the chair of the Health Care Committee of the Oregon House of Representatives, I worked to develop and pass HB 2009 in the 2009 legislative session that provides a stable and strategic infrastructure for comprehensive health reform in Oregon. That foundation, along with Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, puts Oregon in a very strong position to enact coordinated and comprehensive health reform.

Resources under a State HIE Cooperative Agreement will provide much needed help for the successful implementation of a statewide system for electronic health information exchange. This will support the use of health information technology to lower costs and improve quality of care.

I enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans and believe that the funding available through this program will support our health reform goals of achieving high quality, affordable health care for all Oregonians.

I look forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rep. Mitch Greenlick', written in a cursive style.

Representative Mitch Greenlick (HD33)
Chair, House Health Care Committee

July 28, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

Salem Health strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

Salem Health looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Kudla

Vice President and Chief Information Officer
Salem Health
890 Oak Street SE
Salem, Oregon 97301

**SOUTHERN COOS
Hospital & Health Center**

900 11th Street S.E. ~ Bandon, Oregon 97411
541-347-2426 ~ FAX 541-347-3923



August 11, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW, Suite 729-D
Washington, DC 20201


Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

The purpose of this correspondence is to advise you that Southern Coos Hospital and Health Center strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange. We are of the understanding that these plans are being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program here in Oregon. We also want you to know that these plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders, including our hospital and with a good deal of input from our IT and administrative teams.

We endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will have the opportunity to make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and containing the cost of health care. We share the belief that utilizing existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon, as the foundation for HIE, is the right strategy for our state and that it will allow innovation and cooperative partnerships to flourish.

We are looking forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on these strategic and operational plans. Should you have any questions of us, we would be happy to respond to you.

Sincerely,


James A. Wathen, CEO



St. Charles Bend

2500 NE Neff Road
Bend, Oregon 97701
541.382.4321
www.stcharleshealthcare.org

August 15, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

St. Charles Health System strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

As you know, one size does not fit all, and the Central Oregon community believes that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

St. Charles Health System looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Bonetto".

Michael J. Bonetto, PhD, MPH, MS
VP, Business and Community Development

LAURIE MONNES ANDERSON
State Senator
DISTRICT 25



STATE SENATE

8/2/2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

I strongly support Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

I enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

I look forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,



August 10, 2010

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Suite 729-D
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

Tuality Healthcare strongly supports Oregon's strategic and operational plans for health information exchange being submitted to you as part of the State Health Information Exchange (HIE) Cooperative Agreement program. These plans have been developed through an open, transparent process with the engagement and support of a wide range of stakeholders.

We enthusiastically endorse the vision, goals and objectives outlined in the strategic and operational plans, and believe that with the federal funding available through this program, Oregon will make significant strides in increasing quality, improving health and lowering or containing the cost of health care through statewide health information exchange allowing for information to be available where and when it is needed to improve health and health care.

As you know, one size does not fit all, and we believe that utilizing the existing and emerging local health information organizations (HIOs) in Oregon as the foundation for HIE is the right strategy for our state, and will allow innovation and cooperative partnership to flourish.

Tuality Healthcare looks forward to working with HITOC and the Oregon Health Authority on the next phase of this effort as we work together to ensure the successful implementation of statewide health information exchange in Oregon based on the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,



Sonney Sapra
Chief Information Officer
Tuality Healthcare
335 SE 8th Avenue
Hillsboro, OR 97008