

HITOC
HIO Stakeholder Forum Summary
April 15, 2010

The HITOC HIO Stakeholder Forum held on Thursday, April 15 provided crucial feedback for Oregon's HIE Strategic and Operational Planning. Over 60 people representing 40 organizations were in attendance.*

The majority of the four-hour event focused on hearing from the HIOs, including presentations from Jefferson HIE/Asante, PeaceHealth, Gorge Connect, OCHIN, SACHIE, and Providence/Portland Metro HIE regarding their current HIE activities. There was also a structured discussion session during which the participants were asked to give their perspectives on the following questions:

1. What are now and what would you expect to be the greatest challenges your organization faces in advancing health information exchange in your community?
2. HITOC will have to make some decisions around priorities. What support/resources/direction would be most helpful to you and your local work as HITOC promotes health information exchange in Oregon and with our neighboring states (i.e., loan programs for provider adoption, communications on specific topics, grants for local HIE expansion)?
3. The current HITOC HIE focus has been on the development of the HIE Strategic and Operational Plans, working with one Strategic Workgroup covering all five domains required in the Plans. As we move forward into the next stage, HITOC wants to develop a structure that meets the needs of key stakeholders, and we are looking to you to help define that structure so that it meets your needs. In your dual roles representing your individual organizations and your local HIOs, how would you want to be involved going forward? In particular, what on-going stakeholder workgroups should be part of the HIE effort? (i.e., Technical Services, Privacy and Security, Inter-state Operations, Consumer Advisory Committee).
4. Do you have any general feedback about the current direction of the HIE Planning efforts as outlined in today's meeting?

In the report back from the discussion session, key pieces of feedback were shared by the group, including:

1. The difficulty and need to demonstrate the value of HIE to providers, and the need to focus on more than the federal incentives;
2. The need to continue and increase coordination efforts among local HIOs, to avoid their developing in divergent/incompatible directions. This was seen as a key role for HITOC;
3. Concern about the cost, and a request for state funding to support community initiatives;

4. A concern about the ability to understand and abide by HIPAA as it applies to HIE;
5. Ideas about how HITOC could best serve local HIOs moving forward, including:
 - a) providing toolkits to HIOs to facilitate exchange;
 - b) setting standards and providing education;
 - c) making sure the appropriate legislation and policies are in place to facilitate HIE;
 - d) support for legal resources, i.e., model agreements, especially around interstate issues;
 - e) help for communities to launch HIE, perhaps through providing streamlined operational models
 - f) standards were seen as critical, certification was a second tier priority;
6. Questions around whom will drive the process to expand HIE - local organizations or the State, and whether larger entities that are paying much of the cost should have a greater voice in governance;
7. This was balanced by a question about how smaller organizations/communities should plug into the process;
8. Coordination around workforce development is critical to stay ahead of the curve in terms of the specific jobs and skills sets that are in demand;
9. The importance of incorporating the HIE "gap" areas into the planning process, and how best to fill those gaps.

Members of the HITOC HIE Planning Team also gave presentations on Oregon's HIE vision and planning process, underscoring the importance of supporting strong, growing local HIOs as central to both. The participants expressed broad support for the current direction of Oregon HIE planning, including the "phased" approach to implementing statewide HIE. They requested more information on the timeline to inform their local planning efforts.

In conclusion, the organizations and representatives who participated in the Forum provided the dialogue, information, and critical feedback needed as HITOC moves forward in drafting the State HIE Plan. Opportunities were shared on how these stakeholders can remain engaged in the process.

*Attendees:

Accenture Health & Public Service
Asante Health System
Cascade Healthcare Community
Cascadia Consulting Partnership
Chemeketa Community College
COEMR
DCIPA
Efficient Enterprise/Dell
Good Shepherd Health Care System
Intel
Iron Mountain
Kaiser Permanente
Lane Community College

Marion-Polk County Medical Society
Medical Business Solutions
Mid-Columbia Medical Center
Mid-Rogue eHealth Services
Mid-Valley Independent Physicians Association
Multnomah County
Northeast Oregon Network
O-HITEC/OCHIN
OHSU
Oregon Health Network
Oregon Community Imaging
PeaceHealth
Performance Health Technology, Ltd.
Pioneer Pacific College
Point B
Providence Health & Services
Regence Blue Cross Blue Shield of Utah
Salem Hospital
Salem Radiology
Samaritan Health
Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital
St. Charles Health System
SW Washington Health System
Tuality Healthcare