The PHDSC Quarterly Standard E-Newsletter

Promoting Standards Through Partnerships

PUBLIC HEALTH DATA STANDARDS CONSORTIUM
PHDSC
Promoting Standards Through Partnerships

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We are proud to welcome our new members:

CDC National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Become a Member

Learn about the benefits of joining and become a member

AIRA Board Selects PHDSC for 2008 Annual Partnership Award

By Susan Salkowitz of
American Immunization Registry Association

Four years ago, the American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA) joined the Public Health Data Standards Consortium (Consortium). In addition to AIRA, several vendors of Immunization Information Systems joined the Consortium to participate in PHDSC activities at the national efforts of health information technology standardization at the Health Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP, www.hitsp.org), Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE, www.ihe.net) and Health Information Security and Privacy Collaborative (HISPC, www.hispc.org).

During 2007-2008 in partnership with the Consortium, *AIRA's interoperability standards development and harmonization efforts* were focused at HITSP and IHE on immunization information exchanges between clinical Electronic Health Record systems and Immunization Information Systems. AIRA also collaborated with the HISPC Inter-Organization Agreement Collaborative to develop a *Model Inter-Organization Agreement (IOA)* to exchange immunization data across jurisdictions. AIRA sought and received the

endorsement of the PHDSC Board for this model IOA.

In appreciation for the leadership of Dr. Anna Orlova, the Executive Director of PHDSC, the opportunities for AIRA to share it's expertise on health IT standards in Immunization Information Systems with broad clinical and public health communities, and for the efforts of PHDSC to improve the role of public health in the national health information technology standardization efforts, the AIRA Board voted to award its *2008 Annual Partnership Award to PHDSC*. Anna Orlova will be honored at AIRA's Award Reception on March 31, 2009 in Dallas, Texas at the National Immunization Conference. URL: http://www.immregistries.org/news/2009NIC_AIRA_activities.phtml

Visit our website at www.phdsc.org

The Consortium continues to develop and expand its website which was re-launched last summer.

We see our web-site as one of the primary means to disseminate information on health information technology standardization activities to our members and the community at large.

Stay tuned for new content and some distinctive features in the near future.

NAACCR Updating Standard Specifications for Electronic Pathology Laboratory Reporting
By Lori Havener of
North American Association of Central Cancer Registries

The North American Association of Central Cancer Registries, Inc. (NAACCR) is updating standard specifications for electronic pathology laboratory reporting using Health Level Seven (HL7) Version 2.5.1. This implementation guide will help pathology laboratories develop tools needed to transmit electronic reports to cancer registries by establishing a national message or format standard. It is the intent of the NAACCR Pathology Data Work Group that this implementation guide will make it easier and less costly for pathology and cancer surveillance communities to implement uniform, standard methods for the transmission and receipt of electronic pathology reports.

NAACCR participates on the *HL7 Anatomic Pathology Work Group*. Together with the Public Health Data Standards Consortium, NAACCR also participates in the Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE, www.ihe.net) *IHE Anatomic Pathology Domain* working closely with both groups developing the implementation guidelines for interoperability standards.

Share Your Successes & Lessons Learned
on Health Information Technology Standards Adoption with the Public Health Community in our next

Re-Defining Public Health Registries
New White Paper Released by HLN Consulting, LLC

Dr. Noam Arzt, President of HLN Consulting, LLC, released a new white paper entitled "*Re-defining Public Health Registries*." This document re-casts the public health registry in the context of emerging health information exchange capabilities and a changing health IT world.

The White Paper can be downloaded at:
http://www.hln.com/assets/pdf/Registries-v1.pdf.

PHDSC has been particularly interested in understanding the future of interoperability between various public health registries within state and local public health agencies (e.g., communicable diseases registries, blood lead registries, immunization registries, etc.); as well as between clinical and public health registries under the Nationwide Health Information Network. For more details on this topic, please download presentations by PHDSC members from the Session on the *Future of Public Health Registries* at the 2008 PHDSC Annual Business Meeting, Hyattsville, MD on November13, 2008 at:
http://www.phdsc.org/about/annual-2008-presentations.asp

National Health IT News

Title XIII of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Supports Development of Health Information Technology

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Title XIII of the Act will provide funding and incentives for the development, implementation, and improvement of health information technology (HIT). The Act will most likely provide substantial funding for HIT initiatives for the next 7 to 8 years.

The Act contains a broad list of measures to promote HIT and fund its adoption; among them:
- Giving statutory permanence to the Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology (ONC), originally created by the President Bush's Executive Order in 2005, and establishing a long list of priorities for the ONC, such as a mandate to develop needed standards for HIT by calendar year end and immediate funding of federal agencies to establish a national infrastructure for HIT adoption and deployment;
- Arranging for educational outreach to assist in the adoption of HIT;
- Establishing a variety of grants to states and Indian tribes to promote HIT adoption and create loan funds for providers to procure and implement HIT;
- Funding grants to academic institutions to include HIT in clinical curricula and expand medical health informatics education programs;
- Making direct payments to Medicare providers—professionals and hospitals—that can demonstrate meaningful use of certified Electronic Health Records; and
- Providing funds to states that implement Medicaid programs to promote HIT.

Go to http://www.dwt.com/practc/healthcr/bulletins/02-09_HIT_Promotion.htm for the ARRA provisions overview. For the full text of the ARRA, please go to http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h1enr.pdf.

HHS Launches New Office of Recovery Act Coordination

On March 11, 2009, the Department of Health and Human Services announced the creation of the *Office of Recovery Act Coordination*. The Office will help ensure the timely, organized and transparent distribution of an estimated $137 billion in Recovery Act Funds managed by the Department of Health and Human Services. "HHS is committed to moving quickly and carefully to distribute Recovery Act funds in an open and transparent manner," said HHS Spokeswoman Jenny Backus. "We have already worked to put more than $3 billion in Recovery Act funds into states and the new Office of Recovery Act Coordination will enhance and streamline our efforts to get critical resources and potential new job opportunities to the American people during tough times."

Dennis Williams will lead the new office and serve as HHS' Deputy Assistant Secretary for Recovery Act Coordination. Mr. Williams has served in the department for more than 20 years in offices including the Health Resources Services Administration and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget.

The Department of Health and Human Services has distributed $3 billion in Recovery Act funds as of March 11, 2009, to support a variety of policies and programs including Community Health Centers and Medicaid. To track the progress of HHS activities funded through the ARRA, visit http://www.hhs.gov/recovery. To track all federal funds provided through the ARRA, visit http://www.recovery.gov/

Electronic Health Records, Health IT and the Future of the US Health Care System
Journal of Health Affairs, March/April 2009 - Volume 28, Number 2
http://content.healthaffairs.org/current.shtml

"As dozens of major industries retooled themselves in the 1980s around new means of conveying, processing, and analyzing information, health care largely sat on the sidelines," stated Susan Dentzer, Editor-In-Chief. "Successful innovators leave no doubt that health information technology (IT) can have a dramatic impact on care, despite the challenges of implementation and adoption." The papers in the latest issues of the *Journal of Health Affairs* describe EHR /Health IT efforts all along the continuum from large health care organizations to small independent physician practices.

This issue includes the article about the *New York City Primary Care Information Project* by Dr. Farzad Mostashari, Assistant Commissioner, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and his colleagues in which they "emphasize improvements in preventive care and chronic disease management across a population" in New York City. The article also described the *Massachusetts eHealth Collaborative* project that emphasizes continuity of care within selected communities. Go to http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/abstract/28/2/345 to download this article.