



The PHDSC Quarterly Standard E-Newsletter

Promoting Standards Through Partnerships

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In this Issue:

1. PHDSC 2009 Annual Business Meeting, Hyattsville MD, November 12-13, 2009
2. Re-Evaluation of HL7 EHR-S Functional Model from Public Health Perspectives
3. Standards for Public Health Data Exchange – Public Health at IHE
4. PHDSC Members at IHE Connectathon – Atlas Public Health
5. National Health IT News
 - Forthcoming Privacy and Security Changes under ARRA
 - HITECH Funding Opportunities

PHDSC 2008 Annual Business Meeting Hyattsville MD, November 12-13, 2009

Convened in Partnership with
the CDC National Center for Health Statistics

Over fifty PHDSC members from federal, state and local public health agencies, public health professional associations and health information technology vendors gathered together at Hyattsville, MD in November at the 2009 PHDSC Annual Business Meeting to discuss ***the readiness of public health information systems to support meaningful use of electronic health record systems (EHR-Ss)***.

Representatives from public health professional associations (APHL, AIRA, CSTE, AHIMA, NAPHIT) shared their experience in standardizing immunization information systems, public health laboratory information systems, vital registration and disease surveillance information systems, and integrating these systems into electronic EHR-S-based regional health information exchanges (HIEs). Participants from the State of Nebraska described the integration of public and private data into a statewide HIE and the role of local and state public health agencies in HIE (*The Nebraska Story*).

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The agenda for the second day of the meeting was focused on the role of public health in a national health IT standardization process. It included presentations on the PHDSC projects aimed to develop a common methodology for describing public health work processes, data content and formats, and IT infrastructure services – as a basis for developing health IT (HIT) standards. The session followed by the presentation of the [***PHDSC Business Case on the Role of Public Health on HIT Standardization.***](#) Representatives from professional organizations in the roundtable discussion on the Business Case expressed their support to the PHDSC approach to develop a ***Coordinated Public Health Voice on HIT Standards.***

Visit <http://www.phdsc.org/about/events.asp> for the meeting agenda, list of participants and presentations.

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on Health Information
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the next PHDSC Standard
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Bridget O'Brien at
bobrien@jhsph.edu
for the next issue of our
Newsletter by
March 1, 2010

**Re-Evaluation of HL7 EHR-S Functional Model from
Public Health Perspectives**
Supported by the CDC National Center for Health Statistics

On December 18, 2009 the Consortium issued the Call to re-launch the ***Ad Hoc Task Force on Electronic Health Record-Public Health (EHR-PH)*** in collaboration with the Health Level Seven (HL7) Electronic Health Record Working Group.

In 2003-2004, the Consortium participated in the validation of the original HL7 Electronic Health Record Systems (EHR-S) Functional Model. This validation was conducted by members of the [***PHDSC Ad Hoc Task Force on EHR-PH.***](#) The ISO-approved HL7 EHR-S Functional Model Release 1.1 is undergoing the re-evaluation.

We invited participants from local, state and federal public health agencies, healthcare organizations, public health professional associations, schools of public health, health IT vendor organizations, private sector and individuals interested in public health to join the PHDSC Task Force in re-evaluation of the HL7 EHR-S Functional Model Release 1.1.

Our Goal is to re-evaluate the HL7 EHR-S Functional Model to assure that public health perspectives from the federal, state and local agencies and public health research community are met in the Model.

During January – May 2010, the PHDSC Task Force volunteers

will review the model and related documents from various public health perspectives, document their recommendations, and present these recommendations to the HL7 EHR Working Group in May 2010. The re-evaluation will be conducted via conference calls. The [1st call](#) is scheduled on **January 14, 2010 1-3pm ET**,

Please contact **Regina Austin** at regina@hln.com to join the PHDSC Task Force.

Standards for Public Health Data Exchange – Public Health at IHE

During 2009, the Consortium, in partnership with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, has been working under contract from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to engage the public health community in collaboration with the Electronic Health Record (EHR) Systems vendors at the [Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise \(IHE\)](#). In the IHE 2009 development cycle, we developed the following technical documents:

- [IHE Information Technology Infrastructure \(ITI\) Committee *White Paper on Service Oriented Architecture \(SOA\)*](#) describes SOA approach for integration of public health information systems within a public health agency and a regional health information exchange. The White Paper
- [IHE Quality, Research & Public Health \(QRPH\) Committee *White Paper on Newborn Screening*](#) described functional requirements and data content for electronic information exchanges between clinicians, laboratories and public health programs. We collaborated with the representatives from the genetic testing and hearing programs in the States of Alaska, Maryland, Iowa and Texas and several European countries (France, Germany, Austria and Netherlands) in developing this White Paper.

In December 2009, we completed the [White Paper on *Knowledge Representation in Diabetes Care Management*](#) which described the approach of using standardized queries (questions) generated based on the clinical care guidelines, to specify data content (answers) in health information exchanges. The White Paper is currently under the review by the IHE QRPH Committee and will be posted for public comments in January 2010.

With the support from the CDC Centers for Birth Defects, the

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Consortium will be working on developing a new public health project in the 2009-2010 IHE development cycle – **Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Content Profile**. This profile will be developed by the IHE QRPH Committee and will specify work processes and data requirements for the early hearing screening and short-term care follow-up. It is built upon the 2009 IHE Newborn Screening White Paper described above.

Other public health activities at IHE this year include the CDC-sponsored **Cancer Reporting Content Profile** (IHE QRPH Committee) and the **Common Vocabulary Services Integration Profile** (IHE ITI Committee).

Please contact Anna Orlova at aorlova@jhspsh.edu to join our work at IHE. It will help in informing the development of the IHE Profiles (technical specifications) to be used by EHR vendors in building interoperable public health and clinical information systems.

Visit our Web-site at
www.phdsc.org

The Consortium continues to develop and expand its website.

We see our website as one of the primary means to disseminate information on Health IT standardization activities to our members and the community at large.

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

Please send comments about our Web-site to
Bridget O'Brien at
bobrien@jhspsh.edu

**PHDSC Members at IHE Connectathon –
Atlas Public Health**

Atlas Public Health will participate in the **2010 IHE North American Connectathon Conference**, January 11-15, 2009 in Chicago, IL. The major goal of the Connectathon is to promote the adoption in commercially available healthcare IT systems of the standards-based interoperability solutions. As a result of the company's participation at the 2009 Public Health Information Network (PHIN) conference interoperability showcase, **Atlas** was invited to reprise its demonstration for HINI at the IHE Connectathon. **Atlas** will use its PHIN Suite of software to demonstrate how a state health department can interact with others using HITSP* transaction standards. First, suspected case data will be received from EHRs. **Atlas** will then send Xforms to providers to solicit missing information. Finally, upon case verification, **Atlas** will send alerts out to the participants within the Connectathon community. The capabilities that **Atlas** will demonstrate at the Connectathon are not just prototypes. The functionality is available in the **Atlas PHIN Suite** as it is currently deployed in live environments.

*HITSP – Health Information Technology Standards Panel

Forthcoming Privacy and Security Changes under ARRA

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 (also known as the Stimulus Act) mandates several changes to health information privacy and security, both for HIPAA covered entities and for some non-covered entities such as personal health record vendors who are/will be partners in health care. Many of these changes will come through new rules and guidance scheduled for release in the next few years. These rules and regulations will provide greater specificity on a variety of HIPAA privacy and security provisions and help equalize privacy and security requirements for both covered and non-covered entities to assure more uniform protections.

More than 12 additional privacy and security-related rules and regulations are required under ARRA. Topics that will be clarified and further addressed include breach notification (recently released as rules), enforcement, de-identification, minimum necessary, appropriate security safeguards, and accounting of disclosures

It will be extremely important for public health and other public sector health programs to read and comment on these rules and regulations to ensure that public health needs are taken into account, as many of these topics directly impact public sector health programs. The Consortium's Privacy, Security and Data Exchange (PSDE) Committee has set up a tracking website at http://www.phdsc.org/privacy_security/timeline.asp and plans to set up calls to discuss these rules as they are released and identify any concerns to the public health that should be submitted as comments. Interested parties should sign up for the **PSDE listserv** to be notified of these calls.

HITECH Funding Opportunities

The HITECH Act seeks to improve patient care and make it patient-centric through the creation of a secure, interoperable nationwide health information network. The HITECH grants are specifically designed to work together to provide the necessary assistance and technical support to providers, enable coordination and alignment within and among states, establish connectivity to the public health community in case of emergencies, and assure the workforce is properly trained and equipped to be meaningful users of EHRs. Click [here](#) for more information on the HITECH funding opportunities.

2009 has proven a busy and exciting year for the
Public Health Data Standards Consortium!

*The Consortium's Staff Wishes our Members and Friends
Wonderful Holidays
and
A Happy New Year 2010!*

