

# The PHDSC Quarterly Standard E-Newsletter

Promoting Standards Through Partnerships

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## Upcoming PHDSC Events

PHDSC EHR-PH Task Force meets to work on the [Public Health Functional Profile Project](#)

December 22, 2010  
3-5pmET  
January 26, 2010  
3-5pmET  
February 26, 2010  
3-5pmET  
March 30, 2010  
3-5pmET  
April 27, 2010  
3-5pmET  
May 11, 2010  
3-5pmET  
May 25, 2010  
3-5pmET

## Towards Public Health Sector Transformation and Sector Unity: Maximize Health IT Standardization and Meaningful Use of Health IT in Public Health

*By Anna Orlova*

### From the 2010 PHDSC Annual Meeting, November 3-4, 2010

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 (HIT) vendors gathered together at Hyattsville, MD in early November at the 2010 PHDSC Annual Business Meeting to formulate the PHDSC business strategies for working with its members and broader public health audience on assuring the adoption of health information technology (HIT) standards in public health information systems thus making them interoperable with clinical Electronic Health Records Systems (EHR-S) and other healthcare information systems.

The meeting was held in a summit format of group discussions focused on understanding public health challenges with HIT adoption and formulating

<p>Contact Alla Fridman at <a href="mailto:afridman@phdsc.org">afridman@phdsc.org</a> to join the project</p> <p><a href="#">January 17-21, 2011</a></p> <p>Join PHDSC at the <b>First</b> public health standards testing efforts at IHE Connectathon-2011, Chicago, IL</p> <p><a href="#">February 20-22, 2011</a></p> <p>Join PHDSC in demonstrating public health information systems interoperability at HIMSS 2011 Annual Conference and Exhibition, Orlando, FL</p>	<p>solutions to address those challenges. Participants agreed that challenges with the HIT adoption result from the current (1) siloed funding of public health programs, (2) siloed public health information systems implementations, and (3) siloed program-specific standards development activities.</p> <p>The current national Meaningful Use of HIT strategy does not do enough to promote public health information systems interoperability because siloed, program-specific agendas still prevail related to Meaningful Use Stage I activities, i.e., immunization, laboratory reporting, syndromic surveillance. In addition, programs that are not included in Meaningful Use, e.g. maternal and child health, chronic diseases, environmental health and others, will continue to suffer a lack of attention to their HIT needs.</p> <p>Participants discussed what Public Health will look like in 2020, what role HIT may play in transforming public health sector and its operations, and how PHDSC will help execute this vision. The public health community working with HIT industry has to meet the new public health reality as a <u>united sector</u>. This means both across agencies (federal, state, local) as well as within agencies across programs (biosurveillance, chronic disease, environmental health, vital statistics, health policy, etc.). The Consortium will work with the public health community and HIT industry to support the community in its transformation.</p> <p>Please visit <a href="http://www.phdsc.org/about/events.asp">http://www.phdsc.org/about/events.asp</a> for the meeting agenda, list of participants and presentations.</p>
<p><b><u>Become a Member</u></b></p> <p>Learn about the <a href="#">benefits of joining</a> and <a href="#">become our member</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PHDSC at the Joint Public Health Informatics Task Force (JPHIT)</b></p> <p>On November 16, 2010 Dr. Orlova, PHDSC Executive Director presented the Consortium's <a href="#">Business Case on the Role of Public Health in National HIT Standardization</a> to the JPHIT members as a part of the Business Case implementation strategy. Dr. Orlova described the HIT Standardization Framework from the Business Case that includes the following HIT standardization phases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 – Need a Priorities for HIT Standards</li> <li>2 – Standards Development and Maintenance</li> <li>3 – Standards Harmonization</li> <li>4 – Standards Testing</li> <li>5 – Certification of Standards-based HIT Products</li> <li>6 – Deployment of Certified HIT Products</li> </ol> <p>The Consortium's HIT Standardization Framework is well aligned with the <a href="#">National Standards and Interoperability Framework</a> from the HHS Office of National Coordinator for HIT (ONC).</p> <p>Dr. Orlova also provided an overview of the on-going PHDSC projects on assuring HIT standards for public health in the context of the HIT</p>

	<p>Standardization Framework, e.g., <i>Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)</i> project and <i>Maternal and Child Health</i> project at the Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (<a href="#">IHE</a>); the <i>Public Health Functional Profile</i> at the Health level Seven (<a href="#">HL7</a>); and a new project on <i>Public Health Reporting/Information Exchange</i> at IHE.</p> <p>JPHIT members discussed strategies for increasing public health involvement in the national HIT standardization efforts.</p> <p>More information about the PHDSC projects on HIT standardization for public health can be found at the PHDSC project wiki pages at <a href="https://wiki.phdsc.org/index.php/Main_Page">https://wiki.phdsc.org/index.php/Main_Page</a> . Please note that you have to register to access the PHDSC wiki pages.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>To Learn More about Health IT Standards and Standardization Process</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Visit <a href="#">HIT Standards</a> pages on our website</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Operationalizing Business Processes of Local Health Departments</b></p> <p>On December 3, 2011 a group of representatives from the local health departments gathered together in Park City, UT to define high-level business processes of local public health agencies. This effort was organized by the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Consortium as a follow-up of the discussion on the Medicaid Information Technology Architecture (MITA) at the 2010 PHDSC Annual Business Meeting in early November.</p> <p>Participants envisioned that this effort will inform the development of a new Integration Profile at IHE entitled <i>Public Health Reporting / Information Exchange</i>. The Consortium will be developing this Profile at the IHE Quality, Research and Public Health Committee during the 2010-2011 IHE development cycle. The Profile will focus on specifying functional requirements and HIT interoperability standards for (1) reporting public health data from clinical EHR-Ss to public health information systems, and (2) exchanging data across clinical and public health information systems in the context of local health department operations (business processes). Please look for our announcements on the project progress.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Share Your Successes &amp; Lessons Learned with the Public Health Community on HIT Adoption and Participation in HIT Standardization Activities in the next PHDSC Standard E-Newsletter Issue.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Health IT Testing Methods and Tools for Public Health</b></p> <p>In August 2011 the Consortium successfully completed the development of the <a href="#">Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI)</a> Content Profile and the <a href="#">Maternal and Child Health (MCH)</a> Content Profile at the Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (<a href="#">IHE</a>). The EHDI Profile specifies HIT standards for information exchange between clinical EHR-S and public health EHDI information systems to support work processes and data exchange requirements for the early hearing screening and short-term care follow-up for children ages 0-3. The MCH Profile specifies the content to populate state vital registration systems from the EHR-S at the birthing facilities.</p>

<p><b>Send your stories to</b>  <b>Alla Fridman</b> at <a href="mailto:afidman@phdsc.org">afidman@phdsc.org</a>  for the next issue of our Quarterly Standard E-Newsletter</p>	<p>We are now working with EHR-S vendors, public health vendors and state public health agencies to test these HIT interoperability standards at the major health IT industry testing forum - <a href="#">IHE Connectathon</a>, Chicago IL, January 17-24, 2011. We will further demonstrate standards-based information exchanges for EHDl and MCH at the <a href="#">Health Information Management and Systems Society (HIMSS) Interoperability Showcase</a>, Orlando FL, February 20-24, 2011.</p> <p>For more information on the PHDSC-IHE EHDl project, please visit our project wiki: <a href="https://wiki.phdsc.org/index.php/EHDI_Project_Year3">https://wiki.phdsc.org/index.php/EHDI_Project_Year3</a>.</p> <p>For more information on the PHDSC-IHE MCH project, please visit our project wiki: <a href="https://wiki.phdsc.org/index.php/MCH">https://wiki.phdsc.org/index.php/MCH</a></p> <p>Support for the EHDl project is provided by the CDC Centers for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities</p> <p>Support for MCH project is provided by the CDC National Center for Health Statistics</p>
<p><b>Visit our Web-site at</b>  <a href="http://www.phdsc.org">www.phdsc.org</a></p> <p>The Consortium continues to develop and expand its website.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Stay tuned for new content and some distinctive features in the near future.</p> <p><b>Please send comments about our Web-site to</b>  <b>Alla Fridman</b> at <a href="mailto:afidman@phdsc.org">afidman@phdsc.org</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Towards HIT Certification for Public Health</b></p> <p>Since September 2010 the Consortium has been working on the initiative that will enable HIT certification for interoperability of EHR-S and public health information systems. The <b>Public Health Functional Profile</b> (PHFP) project will document public health functional requirements based on the HL7 EHR-S Functional Model Release 1.1.</p> <p>Over 130 individuals have joined the PHDSC EHR-Public Health (EHR-PH) Task Force to participate in this effort. We identified volunteers to work on the reviewing EHR-S functions as they applicable to several public health programs (domains) including Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDl), Birth Defects, Cancer, Vital Records and others.</p> <p>In this project we will further work with the state EHDl programs to develop a methodology for translating functional requirements into criteria for certifying EHR-S interoperability with public health information systems. These efforts will enable certification process of clinical EHR-S and public health information systems.</p> <p>Please join the PHDSC EHR-PH Task Force to develop Public Health Functional Profile by sending e-mail to Alla Fridman at <a href="mailto:afidman@phdsc.org">afidman@phdsc.org</a></p> <p>For more information, please visit project wiki pages at <a href="https://wiki.phdsc.org/index.php/EHR-PH_Project_Year3">https://wiki.phdsc.org/index.php/EHR-PH_Project_Year3</a></p> <p>Support for this project is provided by the CDC National Center for Health Statistics</p>

## Public Health Informatics Training at Johns Hopkins

Targeting public health professionals currently in practice, The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Schools of Medicine and Nursing and the Public Health Data Standards Consortium, is pleased to announce that the **Public Health Informatics Training Program** is now accepting applications. This program results in a Maryland State-approved Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in public health informatics.

The goal of this program is to offer training in methods and concepts of health informatics and health information technology for application to public health. It is designed for current (and future) public health professionals who wish to develop expertise or specialization in this area. Courses for this program are available completely online. Individuals residing in the Mid-Atlantic region may also take selected courses on site.

The training program focuses on the following informatics topics:

- ✓ Overview of public health and biomedical informatics
- ✓ Health information systems design and development
- ✓ Health information technology standards and systems interoperability
- ✓ Systems evaluation in health sciences informatics
- ✓ Population health informatics
- ✓ Knowledge engineering, knowledge management and decision support in public health (including spatial analysis and GIS)
- ✓ Real-time public health biosurveillance
- ✓ "mHealth" mobile consumer health applications

To complete the training, students will undertake a "practicum," working on a public health informatics project at an organization that will be identified in collaboration with Johns Hopkins faculty.

**On a competitive basis, \$10,000 tuition subsidies are available to qualified individuals via a grant from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), US Department of Health and Human Services.**

The next cycle of training will begin in late August, 2011, during the 2011/2012 academic year. **The application deadline for preferred consideration is February 15, 2011. Applications will be accepted until May 15, 2011.**

More information about the Public Health Informatics Certificate Training Program can be found at: <http://www.jhsph.edu/dept/hpm/certificates/informatics> or by contacting Ms. Pamela Davis, the Program Coordinator at [pdavis@jhsph.edu](mailto:pdavis@jhsph.edu) or 410-614-1580.

*Please note:* As part of the Johns Hopkins University-wide health informatics training, two other programs (with subsidies also funded by the ONC) are available for medical, nursing, information technology, software engineers, and clinical management professionals without public health experience. These other programs are hosted at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and School of Nursing. The admission deadline for the next cycle of these certificate programs is February 15, 2011. Information on the health informatics certificate programs for professionals without public health experience can be found at: <http://www.jhu.edu/healthIT>

## PHDSC Members News

### HLN on Meaningful Use and Public Health

*By Noam Arzt*

Noting a lack of comprehensive resources related to Meaningful Use of Health IT and Public Health, HLN Consulting, LLC has posted a series of web pages that bring together disparate resources on this topic available on the Internet. This comprehensive set of web pages provides background information, as well as specific pages on the three public health meaningful use objectives: immunization data submission, syndromic surveillance, and laboratory results reporting. Each page provides key information on the specific objective, including an explanation of the purpose of the objective, relevant organizations, strategies, technical implementation guidance, and other resources.

For more information see <http://www.hln.com/resources/mu-ph.php>

## National Health IT News

*By Anna Orlova*

### ONC is Asking for Responses to Specific Questions on the PCAST Report

On December 8, 2011 a President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology published the report entitled [Realizing the Full Potential of Health Information Technology to Improve Healthcare for Americans: The Path Forward](#) (PCAST Report). The report is proposing that health information exchanges adopt a "universal exchange language" to allow patients to have more control over their data and ensure privacy protection. The report also suggests integrating such universal language into the Stage 2 and 3 Meaningful Use requirements.

[ONC seeks comments](#) through January 17, 2011 on the questions below:

1. What standards, implementation specifications, certification criteria, and certification processes for EHR technology and other HIT would be required to implement the following specific recommendations from the PCAST report:
  - a. That ONC establish minimal standards for the metadata associated with tagged data elements;
  - b. That ONC facilitate the rapid mapping of existing semantic taxonomies into tagged data elements;
  - c. That certification of EHR technology and other HIT should focus on interoperability with reference implementations developed by ONC.
2. What processes and approaches would facilitate the rapid development and use of these standards, implementation specifications, certification criteria and certification processes?
3. Given currently implemented information technology (IT) architectures and enterprises, what challenges will the industry face with respect to transitioning to the approach discussed in the PCAST report?
  - a. Given currently implemented provider workflows, what are some challenges to populating the metadata that may be necessary to implement the approach discussed in the PCAST report?
  - b. Alternatively, what are proposed solutions, or best practices from other industries, that could be leveraged to expedite these transitions?

4. What technological developments and policy actions would be required to assure the privacy and security of health data in a national infrastructure for HIT that embodies the PCAST vision and recommendations?

5. How might a system of Data Element Access Services (DEAS), as described in the report, be established, and what role should the Federal government assume in the oversight and/or governance of such a system?

6. How might ONC best integrate the changes envisioned by the PCAST report into its work in preparation for Stage 2 of Meaningful Use?

7. What are the implications of the PCAST report on HIT programs and activities, specifically, health information exchange and Federal agency activities, and how could ONC address those implications?

8. Are there lessons learned regarding metadata tagging in other industries that ONC should be aware of?

9. Are there lessons learned from initiatives to establish information sharing languages (“universal languages”) in other sectors?

Source: David Blumenthal, National Coordinator, Office of the National Coordinator for HIT. December 7, 2010.

### **Proposal for Meaningful Use of HIT – Stages 2 & 3**

On December 13, the Meaningful Use (MU) Workgroup of the ONC HIT Policy Committee presented the proposed MU Stage 2 & 3 criteria, including those for public and population health. The Committee anticipates to release the draft MU criteria for Stages 2 & 3 for public comments in January 2011. More information about the draft recommendations on MU Stages 2 & 3 can be found at [http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit\\_hhs\\_gov\\_policy\\_past\\_meetings/1814](http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov_policy_past_meetings/1814)

2010 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 2011!*