

Public Health Informatics Newsletter

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Program Update

NACCHO Meets with ONC Head David Blumenthal

NACCHO's Executive Director, Bobby Pestronk, recently met with the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (HIT), David Blumenthal. The conversation centered on the opportunities for LHDs to take part in HIT opportunities from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. NACCHO will continue the dialogue with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) over the coming months.

NACCHO's Informatics Advisory Workgroup has produced a logic model that sets out key short- and long-term goals for local public health informatics. The goals have influenced the activities planned for 2009–10. The logic model can be found on

News

Health Officials Look to IT to Track H1N1

Officials from the Department of Health and Human Services highlighted the role of HIT while testifying at a House hearing on the federal response to H1N1. The officials discussed the lack of real-time information about the spread of the pandemic and the need for a comprehensive view using IT.

[Read more about the testimony »](#)

Policy Committee Considers Laboratory Data Exchange

The national Health Information Technology Policy Committee's information exchange workgroup devoted a day to hearing testimony about the electronic exchange of laboratory data. Several of those testifying highlighted the barriers that exist to achieving this aspect of "meaningful use".

[Learn more about the testimony »](#)

Advocacy Group Releases Report on School-based Telehealth

The Children's Partnership, a California-based advocacy group, has produced a report that looks at the potential for providing access to healthcare in schools. The report highlights the potential of two different channels of stimulus funding to increase the use of this technology.

[Read the report here »](#)

Alameda County Links Social Services Information Systems

In a move expected to increase quality of service and reduce costs, Alameda County (CA) has launched a tool that integrates six systems used by social services. Over the next two years 20 more services will be integrated, including child care and MediCal, which is the state's healthcare service.

[Find out more about the new integration tool »](#)

Nebraska Governor Discusses Electronic Health Records

Governor David Heineman of Nebraska was interviewed by Government Technology to discuss the state's technology initiatives. The Governor focused on the statewide electronic health records initiative.

NACCHO's [informatics resources page](#).

For information about NACCHO's informatics program, please contact us at phinformatics@naccho.org.

[Read and view the interview »](#)

Social Media Use Among LHDs

This article from Medscape Today highlights the use of social media tools such as Twitter and Facebook among public health agencies. Along with the CDC, the article features the Salt Lake Valley Health Department's use of this technology.

[Read more about social media \[log in may be required\]»](#)

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Upcoming Events

Health Information Technology at the APHA Meeting and Exposition

The Health Informatics Information Technology special primary interest group of American Public Health Association (APHA) will host, moderate, or present 24 sessions at the 137th Annual APHA Meeting and Exposition that is being held in Philadelphia from November 7 to 11.

[Learn more about HIIT sessions at the APHA meeting](#)

Outcomes-driven Health Information Exchange Webinar

Microsoft is sponsoring a free webinar on November 10, at 2:30 P.M. E.S.T., that will look at the business approaches towards health information exchange (HIE). Technical solutions for HIE will also be considered.

[Register for the webinar here »](#)

Public Health and Technology Conference

The Harvard School of Public Health's Public Health and Technology Forum, a student group, has organized the first Public Health and Technology Conference, to be held on November 16 in Boston. John Halamka, CIO, Harvard Medical School, will be one of the keynote speakers.

[Learn more about the conference](#)



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