

Public Health Informatics Newsletter

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Program Update

Needs Assessment

Webinar-May 26, 2010

Join the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Wednesday, May 26th from 2:00-3:00 PM EST for a webinar on the final report of NACCHOs 2010 Informatics Needs Assessment of Local Health Departments, including current informatics capacity

News

HHS-\$267 million granted for more regional extension centers, thousands of jobs

The Department of Health and Human Services announced more than \$267 million of awards for non-profit organizations in establishing the Health Information Technology Regional Extension Centers. The grants will help grow thousands of job opportunities in the fields of nursing, pharmacy technicians, and IT technicians and trainers. The regional extension centers will help support 100,000 primary care providers and hospitals within two years.

[\[More Link\]](#)

HHS-Some RECs will open soon to help with meaningful use

According to federal officials, some regional extension centers (RECs) will open in the next few weeks. The RECs that are opening in the next few weeks are those that were awarded in the first wave of funding (\$375 million on February 12). Farzad Mostashari, senior advisor for the Office of the National Coordinator, said that the RECs will help providers get the most out of their healthcare IT system.

[\[More Link\]](#)

New Open-Source Data Network "Sage"

[Teaser Subtitle]

A report in the Wall Street Journal presents a new open-source data network called Sage. The vision of Sage is to create an open-source collaborative venue where researchers can exchange and share their ideas or data. The network will aim to create collaborative efforts between pharmaceutical companies,

and needs within local health departments. The webinar is free and open to the public. For more information regarding the webinar or the needs assessment report, please visit our website or contact Alastair Matheson at amatheson@naccho.org or (202) 507-4243.

HITECH Grant Survey

NACCHO's Public Health Informatics program has developed a survey that seeks to collect information on local health departments that have applied and been awarded a HITECH Grant. The outcome of the survey will result in a database of information on best practices. In all, the information will help to create collaboration between LHDs, increase technical assistance for LHDs to adopt health information

academic research centers and patient groups. Dr. Stephen Friend, the founder of Sage (also Rosetta Inpharmatics and a senior vice president of cancer research at Merck & Co) said there are many issues to further discuss regarding the project. He said "It is an absurd way to generate information if you start from scratch each time saying, 'I am going to do it better or different,' instead of saying, 'I will put my layer of information on top of what others have done and have a bigger insight.'"

[\[More Link\]](#)

Call for Participants: NACCHO Advisory Groups

NACCHO will soon begin making appointments for the 2010-2011 terms. To see which groups are recruiting members and to express your interest in serving on a Committee or Workgroup please complete the interest form at <http://www.naccho.org/about/committees/apply.cfm>. Volunteer leadership is crucial to NACCHO work and advisory groups are important vehicles for member input. NACCHO encourages health officials and other health department staff to consider offering their expertise in order to ensure the best possible products and services for our membership. For more information, contact Maggie English at menglish@naccho.org or 202-463-8174.

Please follow the link below to see which groups are recruiting members and to express your interest in serving on a Committee or Workgroup.

[\[More Link\]](#)

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Events

HIMSS Webinar on Adopting EHRs by October Deadline

On April 27th at 2pm EST, the Health Information & Management Systems Society (HIMSS) will offer a webinar for healthcare organizations that need to have an EMR fully implemented by October 2010 to start receiving "meaningful use" reimbursements in January 2011.

technologies, and access to more resources not currently involved in these projects. Please visit the following link to take the survey-[More](#)

[\[More Link\]](#)

Register for AMIA Now 2010!

On Tuesday, May 25th the AMIA Now 2010! conference will begin with an opening plenary session. The two day program will offer panels, workshops, and posters.

[\[Register\]](#)

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

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Opportunity

Next NHIN University Class-April 19,2010



The Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) is providing stakeholders an opportunity to gain foundational knowledge by offering a series of FREE webinars that explain how NHIN works, and the building of trust for safe and secure health information exchange. The third NHIN University class will be offered on April 19, 2010, from 1:00-2:30pm. Dr. Doug Fridsma, Rich Kernan and David Riley will cover specifications of the Limited Production Exchange, discuss the FHA CONNECT solution and inform on how the complementary NHIN Direct project can work to expand adoption specifications. For more information on the program and registration please visit the following link.

[\[More Link\]](#)

HIMSS Davies Award



Since 1994, the Nicholas E. Davies Awards of Excellence program has rewarded excellence in the implementation and value derived from the use of healthcare information technology (HIT), by provider organizations, private practices, public health entities, and community health organizations. The 2010 Davies Organizational applications are due Friday, April 16, 2010.

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