

TEXAS HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

Capitol Extension Building, Room E1.010
Austin, Texas 78701

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2010
10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Edward Marx (Chair), Kathleen Mechler (Vice Chair), Matthew Hamlin (Treasurer), Alesha Adamson (Secretary), Fred Buckwold, Raymond Davis, David Fleeger, Donna Montemayor, Dee Porter, Judy Powell, Darren Rodgers, and Stephen Yurco

MEMBERS ABSENT

Adolfo Valadez

STAFF

Tony Gilman, CEO

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Edward Marx called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Chair Marx welcomed the Board members and guests, and asked Mr. Tony Gilman to take roll. Chair Marx welcomed Mr. Stephen Palmer with the Office of eHealth Coordination at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and thanked him for participating in the Board's meetings.

Chair Marx also reviewed the mission and vision of the THSA:

Mission

The Texas Health Services Authority will promote and coordinate the development of a seamless electronic health information infrastructure to improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of the Texas health care sector while protecting individual privacy.

Vision

To enhance health care quality and effectiveness for all patients, the health care sector should be supported by an infrastructure made up of interoperable, electronic health records composed of standardized, structured data elements that are exchanged among authorized health care organizations and providers across secure regional and statewide networks.

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS

Approval of Minutes from the July 22, 2010 Meeting

Chair Marx asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the July 22, 2010 meeting. Dr. David Fleeger made a motion to pass the meeting minutes. Ms. Judy Powell seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Update on Health Information Technology Regional Extension Centers (Briefing Item)

Chair Marx advised the Board that the next item on the agenda was an update on the Health Information Technology (HIT) Regional Extension Centers (RECs). The Chair asked Vice Chair Kathleen Mechler to brief members on this item and noted that she was excused following her briefing to go to present to the House Public Health Committee. Vice Chair Mechler reminded members that the Texas RECs will offer technical assistance, guidance, and information to support and accelerate health care providers' efforts to become meaningful users of Electronic Health Records. This support, she noted, will target primary care clinicians through training and support services. She further advised that:

- Operational plans and budgets have been approved for CentrEast and Gulf Coast RECs. The North Texas REC has an approved Operational Plan with the budget pending approval for next week. West Texas has tentative approval of their Operations Plan.
- RECs are hiring and orienting new staff. This is important as one of the grant components is "workforce" development.
- The RECs have ongoing weekly meetings with each other, OeHC, THSA, and the state Medicaid office for purposes of fostering communication and collaboration.
- The RECs have also been in communication with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Region VI Office in Dallas. The RECs have been invited to participate in regional provider adoption calls scheduled September 20 and October 4.
- The RECs and the HIE Coalition met in San Antonio August 3 for a working session.

Vice Chair Mechler also advised members that the RECs would like the THSA to consider:

- The need for a regional approach to covering white space.
- Timelines for all grantees are very important however the timelines are not consistent across the board for grantees so we all may need to adjust slightly to support each other.

Presentations by Consumers Union and AARP on HIT and Health Information Exchange (Briefing Item)

Chair Marx noted the next item on the agenda are presentations on HIT and health information exchange (HIE) from Lisa McGiffert with Consumers Union and Trey Berndt, Associate State Director for Advocacy with AARP. Ms. McGiffert commented on the consumer principles and communication strategies in the draft HIE strategic and operational plans. She also provided recommendations on how to ensure consumers are engaged in the THSA governance, including need to provide tools for consumers to use on the THSA web site.

Mr. Berndt reviewed AARP's HIT principles and noted the similarity to the principles included in the draft HIE strategic and operational plans. He also comment on the draft plans and suggested several considerations for the THSA to consider during implementation, including:

- Consider lessons from problematic, large scale IT implementations;
- Testing/readiness for consumer protections;
- Willingness to act on readiness information and delay, in not ready; and
- Consumer confidence can be fleeting; need to get it right the first time.

CEO Update Operations, Work Plan, and other Administrative Matters (Briefing Item)

Chair Marx advised the Board the next item on the agenda was an update from Mr. Gilman on the THSA operations, project work plan, and other administrative matters. Mr. Gilman described the monthly report submitted to HHSC on August 13 and provided the Board with information on the legislative briefing conducted by staff on August 24. He also reviewed the work plan and process chart, which includes a list of staff activities for September through November of this year. Chair Marx thanked Mr. Gilman for his presentation. There was no further discussion.

HIT Coordinator Update on the Texas Health and Human Services Commission's Medicaid HIE Advisory Committee, Medicaid HIT Plan, and the Office of the National Coordinator for HIT (Briefing Item)

Chair Marx advised the Board that the next item on the agenda was an update from the State HIT Coordinator, Mr. Palmer. Mr. Palmer provided an update on the activities of HHSC's Medicaid HIE Advisory Committee. He also discussed the Medicaid HIT Plan and his ongoing dialogue with the Office of the National Coordinator for HIT. Chair Marx thanked Mr. Palmer for his presentation. There was no further discussion on this item.

Briefing and Consideration of Draft HIE Strategic and Operational Plans (Briefing Item)

Chair Marx advised the Board that the next item on the agenda was consideration of the staff revisions to the draft plans and public comments. He then asked Mr. Gilman to brief members on this item. Mr. Gilman reminded members that drafts of the strategic and operational plans were released on August 2 for public comment, and 231 comments from 28 individuals or organizations were submitted prior to the August 16 deadline.

Mr. Gilman also reviewed staff revisions to the draft plans and noted that the revisions were released to the public 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Members then reviewed and discussed public comments. Mr. Ray Davis made a motion to accept all of the comments relating to technical and grammatical changes. Ms. Judy Powell seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Fred Buckwold next made a motion to direct staff to respond to all of the comments or requests for clarifications. Dr. Stephen Yurco seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Members then reviewed and discussed all of the remaining comments.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:45 a.m. and resumed work at 12:20 p.m.

Following review of all of the comments, Ms. Alesha Adamson made a motion to accept the comments agreed to by the Board, and to accept the staff revisions to the HIE strategic and operational plans. Mr. Matthew Hamlin seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The Board next discussed the draft plans, asked questions, and provided further direction to staff. Dr. David Fleeger raised concerns with the composition of the Collaboration Council (Council) and asked the Board to consider making three changes – reduce the number of HIE representatives on the Council; add a privacy and security expert to the Council, and replace the THSA Chief Executive Officer

(CEO) as chair with another member of the Council. The Board considered each item individually.

Dr. Buckwold made a motion to have four HIE representatives on the Council, one member appointed from each of the four REC regions. All other recognized HIEs would serve as ex-officio members. Vice Chair Mechler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote:

Ayes: Kathleen Mechler, Fred Buckwold, Raymond Davis, David Fleeger, Donna Montemayor, Darren Rodgers, Stephen Yurco (7)

Nayes: Alesha Adamson, Matthew Hamlin, Edward Marx, and Judy Powell (4)

The Board next discussed adding a privacy and security expert to the Council, and directed that the consumer representative should have a background on privacy and security issues. Dr. Fleeger withdrew his request to replace the THSA CEO as chair with another member of the Council following the Board's discussion.

Chair Marx then invited members of the public to comment on the draft HIE strategic and operational plans.

Following public comment, Dr. Buckwold made a motion to approve the HIE strategic and operational plans. Mr. Darren Rodgers seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board received public comment from Dr. Peel, Archie Alexander, Kim Dunn, Gijis Van Oort, and Caroline Witherspoon.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Chair Marx asked Mr. Gilman to brief members on upcoming meetings. Mr. Gilman noted the Board was scheduled to meet on November 18. Chair then recognized Mr. Hamlin to brief members on the financial summary reports. The Board had no questions on these items.

ADJOURN

Chair Marx asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Dr. Buckwold and seconded by Ms. Adamson. The meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.



Edward Marx, Chairman