

REDWOOD HEALTH INFORMATION COLLABORATIVE

Meeting of the Steering Committee
May 3, 2006

Initial Discussion of HIE Governance Issues

Notes of Discussion

1. Why are you (why is your organization) participating in the effort to organize a regional health information exchange?
2. What are the major objectives and/or gains to be achieved by a regional information exchange?
 - From the practitioner's point of view, an electronic health record will promote patient care.
 - From a quality improvement professional's point of view, professionals exchanging data will improve quality.
 - Physicians struggle to make a living. Primary care physicians require access to records at lower cost. The #1 objective is to improve care.
 - In a small community without large institutional resources, a structure is needed to more policy development around EHR faster than it is now, to identify a solution that is within reach so as to contain costs.
 - Benefits of EHR are cost effectiveness and improved patient care.
 - Participation in RHIO is part of fixing a broken health care system.
 - Use leveraging opportunities provided by technology.
 - Export efficiency to additional communities; make electronic informatin exchange work better faster.
3. What are likely to be the key issues in the organization or use of such an exchange in the next one, five and/or ten years (*e.g.*, budget, membership, growth, others?).
4. What should be the overall mission and specific priorities of the exchange's governing body?
 - Sustainability is the primary issue; a sustainable business model is more likely to succeed than a program based on receipt of grants.

- However, providers do not have the funds required to purchase infrastructure.
 - A RHIO that promotes standardization and normalization will reduce costs.
 - Their key issue is getting people to participate. Each inefficiency is lost revenue.
 - Information is a business resource. Create community demand for networked information exchange and that will drive adoption.
5. Which people and organizations do you believe should participate in the exchange and in the exchange's governance structure?
- It is important to identify those who would act as convenors, *i.e.*, those most capable and trusted to act as leaders.
 - Possibilities include:
 - ◆ County public health authority
 - ◆ Nonprofit organization, *e.g.* Redwood MedNet
 - ◆ The initial steering committee
 - Recommendation is to convene a working group to intensively evaluate options and report back to the steering committee with recommendations; approximately two (2) month deadline.
6. Who else needs to be involved in the planning process?
- Major stakeholders
 - Ukiah Valley Medical Center, Mendocino Coast District Hospital
 - Community physician (*i.e.*, sole practitioner)
 - Community clinic
 - County medical society
 - Public health authority
 - Naysayer or skeptic
 - Payor
 - Foundation