

## **Governor's eHealth Care Quality and Patient Safety Board: Stakeholder Baseline Readiness, Perspective, and Buy-In**

### **Responses to Questions Raised by Participants in March 2006 Online Survey and Follow-up Interviews**

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**Question 1:** What is the relationship of the eHealth Care Quality and Patient Safety Board (eHealth Board) to the previous Board on Health Care Information?

- Governor Doyle, through Executive Order 129, created the eHealth Board. Governor Doyle appointed the Board's members. This Board replaces the former Board on Health Care Information, bringing the oversight and advisory activities of the previous Board under the auspices of the larger mission related to the evolution and transformation of health care in a digital and electronic environment.

**Question 2:** What are the roles and responsibilities of the eHealth Board?

- The **purpose** of the eHealth Board is to develop a strategic plan for the statewide adoption and exchange of electronic health records in five years (*Wisconsin Action Plan for Health Care Quality and Safety*).
- Executive Order also 129 charges the eHealth Board to address the following:
  - Identify existing eHealth resources, including funding sources, to support the development of a statewide eHealth information infrastructure.
  - Identify technology options, and their advantages and disadvantages, for a statewide eHealth information infrastructure.
  - Identify options for serving consumer health information needs.
  - Insure health information privacy and security in electronic health information exchange.
  - Facilitate statewide adoption of electronic health record standards to enable health information exchanges across the state and nationally; and
  - Create organization and governance structures for a statewide eHealth information infrastructure.
- The eHealth Board will help educate stakeholders about health information technology (HIT) and health information exchange (HIE) and encourage the acquisition and implementation of HIT.
- eHealth Board members will serve as active members and leaders of the *Action Plan* process work groups (discussed below).

**Question 3:** How much does will the Board focus on implementation? How much will it serve as a bully pulpit?

The Board is focused on actionable recommendations that will move the state, through public and private sector collaboration, to maximize the potential benefits of HIT and HIE. The Board also provides a visible platform and public leadership to stimulate and motivate partners throughout the public and private sectors. In this regard, it can

**Question 4:** What are the eHealth Board's goals and expectations?

- The eHealth Board's goals and expectations are steered by Executive Order 129.

**Question 5:** What is the eHealth Board's role in regards to the development and evolution of what have been, to date, largely private initiatives (e.g., WHIO, WHIE, Checkpoint, WCHQ)?

- The eHealth Board and the *Action Plan* planning process will build on initiatives that are already underway in Wisconsin to facilitate adoption of HIT and HIE across the state.
- The eHealth Board and the *Action Plan* planning process will coordinate and cooperate with existing efforts to avoid duplication of effort. Representatives of many current efforts serve on the eHealth Board and others are invited to participate in this planning process through the work groups discussed below.
- The eHealth Board will promote best practices as exhibited by these private sector initiatives. It will also be able to tie in public health and public sector interest that have not yet been integrated. As well, the eHealth Board will work to advance the exchange and inter-operability of health information, beyond the boundaries of any individual network.

**Question 6:** How is this different from WHIO (Wisconsin Health Information Organization)?

- Like WHIO, the *Action Plan* is intended advance data collection, aggregation, and reporting for the purposes in improving quality in health care. WHIO aggregates administrative data from payers for analysis of cost and quality. It does not involve the exchange of information and medical records in the clinical care process.
- The eHealth Board activities focus on issues of policy and procedure to foster adoption of HIT and HIE statewide, while the WHIO is one case example of how that might work at the organizational level.
- John Toussaint, MD, the chair of WHIO, serves on the Governor's eHealth Board.

**Question 7:** Who will be involved with the *Action Plan* planning process?

- In addition to the eHealth Board members, work groups will be formed to broaden the range of stakeholders involved in this effort. There will be five work groups:

- Patient Care Information Support (Clinical Care)
  - Information Exchange Technical Requirements
  - Consumer Interests
  - Governance
  - Financing
- Work groups will meet monthly from April through November. Members can attend meetings in person and via teleconference. These are public meetings. Any interested member of the public will have an opportunity to attend or participate in a meeting in person or via teleconference. In addition, all work groups materials will be posted on the eHealth Board web site. There will be mechanisms at this sight for review and comment by any web site user.

**Question 8:** How will workgroup members be selected?

- Work group membership is intended to include and represent the various stakeholders in the area of HIT and HIE.
- Board members and other key leaders in Wisconsin's health care industry have recommended possible participants, and solitation of interest in work group membership have been distributed broadly.
- Work group members were selected for balance of sector, expertise, and geography in order to achieve the goals each work group.

**Question 9:** How does this project relate to or take Federal activities and regulations into account?

The state eHealth Action Planning process works hand-in-glove with the initiatives promoted by President Bush and the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. States nationwide are undertaking similar processes as Wisconsin's to put in place the infrastructure that will be needed to advance the goals and implement the programs being promulgated at the federal level.

In some cases, Wisconsin or other states may be leading the way, while the federal government adopts state innovations. In other cases, Wisconsin will be adopting and adapting models, programs, guidelines, or regulations that originate at the federal level or in other states. In either case, Wisconsin's eHealth Board will promote compatible approaches and systems, recognizing that health and health care transcend state boundaries.