

MINUTES

Health Information Technology and Transparency Advisory Board and Ad Hoc Expert

Georgia Tech Research Institute
250 14th Street, N.W., Atlanta, GA 30318
Room 119B
June 20, 2007
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Members Present

Mike Adloo	Jeffrey G. Broka	Dr. James Buehler
Robert W. Bush	Marsha Burke	Dedra Cantrell
Dr. Jack Chapman	Monye Connolly	Chris Downing
Hon. Judson Hill	Michael Heekin	Duane A. Kavka
R. Scott Leavell	Patricia Massey	Doug Moses
Dr. Winston Price	Gayle Ransom	Sonya Smith
Dennis L. White		

DCH Staff Present

Ruth Carr	Carrie Downing	Jerry Dubberly
Alicia McCord-Estes	Charemon Grant	Dana Greer
Matt Jarrard	Sara Lambert	Diane Manheim
Dr. Rhonda Medows	Sonny Munter	Tinnera Rumph
Tiffiney Ward	Denise Williams	

Health Information Technology and Transparency (HITT) Chairperson Dr. Winston Price brought the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m., at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) located at 250 14th Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30318. A quorum of the Board was present. The meeting commenced with Chairperson Dr. Price's motion to approve the May 16, 2007 minutes. A second motion was made and the minutes were approved.

Chairperson Dr. Price and Mr. Sonny Munter, *Chief Information Officer (CIO)*, of the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), briefed the Board on issues discussed during the June 1, 2007 HITT Executive Committee teleconference. Mr. Munter reported \$1 million was allocated to the Health Information Exchange (HIE) Initiative. Initially, \$300,000 of this amount was awarded to the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) and Cerner, to develop Electronic Health Records (EHR). The \$300,000 allocated to MCG and Cerner has since been withdrawn. The EHR and HIE Initiatives' \$1 million budget is presently available to develop three prototypes. Chairperson Dr. Price requested the HITT Advisory Board and Ad Hoc Experts reintroduce themselves, provide their level of expertise in advocating the HITT Advisory Board and contributions they can make to the success of the HIE and Transparency Initiatives. Chairperson Dr. Price thanked the

Advisory Board and the Ad Hoc Experts for their commentaries and reassured the reintroductions were to place into perspective the Board's mission and goal from its initiation to future intentions.

Chairperson Dr. Price asked Ms. Charemon Grant, *General Counsel*, of DCH to provide a legislative update – no update was provided at this time.

Chairperson Dr. Price requested an update from the Transparency Committee about the Community Forums. Ms. Diane Manheim, *Transparency Project Manager*, of DCH reported DCH has conducted three of seven community forums. Approximately 70 participants attended the forums. The audience was diverse in terms of age, social economic background, but very little racial diversity. The Committee plans to expand on outreach techniques by discussing other ways to obtain feedback. Health advocates are the primary participants. The next sessions are scheduled for Cobb County, Columbus, Macon and Royston. All Community Forums are to be completed by June 30, 2007. Feedback is being received, with innovative concepts. The primary consumer response is to have the web environment available to healthcare providers commercially. Consumers are requesting data which the web will not be able to provide such as live daily cost data. The Committee has to consider the pricing disclaimer issues. The general public consensus is to have a Georgia Web site. Ms. Manheim will compile the forum commentaries into spreadsheets and distribute them at the July Board meeting. The Chair encouraged the Board to try and attend forums. He stated that the primary challenge for these communities regarding the Transparency Web sites; would be to determine how to ensure that there is internet accessibility to diverse populations.

Mr. Munter reported on the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) Medicaid Transformation Grant Proposal. The budget was approximately \$51 million and DCH has applied for three grants: Transparency Initiative, E-Prescribing and EHRs which amounted to \$13.5 million. CMS will decide by October 2007 which states will receive the grant award(s).

Mr. Munter stated several vendors have requested partnerships in developing various grant proposals and initiatives. The Department and HITT Board are unable to randomly select and support various interest groups, providers and their grant proposals. An overview of DCH's Procurement protocol was presented; a bid for proposal has to be released, responses reviewed and a selection made. Chairperson Dr. Price introduced Ms. Dana Greer, *Procurement Services Director*, for DCH to elaborate on the procurement criteria, the affects of individual and/or private entity partnerships, integration with the statewide initiative and procurement process timeliness.

Ms. Sara Lambert, *Program Manager*, of DCH reported on the completed eHealth Initiative Survey on behalf of DCH and the HITT Board. Several of the questions on the

survey were not applicable to the Department and Board. The survey was more applicable to organizations forming a RHIO.

Vice Chair of the HITT Advisory Board and Chair of the Transparency Standing Committee Mr. Chris Downing provided an update on the Transparency Standing Committee. Mr. Downing reiterated the Transparency Community Forums schedule and the Committee's plans to continue solicitation of public feedback after the Web site has been developed. In-depth discussions identifying an URL name for the Web site was also an agenda item since the public had voiced a preference. Two Technical Advisory Groups (TAG), Pharmacy and Hospital and Ambulatory Surgical TAG meetings were conducted regarding issues beneficial to consumers. Mr. Munter inquired about the Transparency Committee's plans to submit an Advance Planning Document (APD) to CMS for funding. Ad Hoc Expert Ms. Gayle Ransom will meet with CMS officials to determine the APD format, timelines, along with any additional criteria and will provide a follow-up to the Board and Committee. Chairperson Dr. Price requested consideration in the recruiting and funding of a position to monitor the Transparency Committee's "e-mail" responses; and in the interim, for DCH to provide a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) template for consumers to receive immediate responses.

Advisory Board Member and Chair of the HIE Standing Committee Mr. Robert Bush reported on the HIE Standing Committee Update. The committee is finalizing the pilot project criteria which will be available for the Board to review during the July 18, 2007 HITT Advisory Board meeting.

There being no further business to be brought before the Health Information Technology and Transparency (HITT) Advisory Board Meeting at the June 20, 2007 session, Chairperson Dr. Price adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THE
_____ DAY OF _____, 2007.

Winston Price, M.D., Chairperson

Chris Downing, Vice Chairperson