

Health Reform: Safety Net Workgroup
Wednesday, January 26, 2011
North Carolina Institute of Medicine, Morrisville
1:00pm-4:00pm
Meeting Summary

Attendees:

Workgroup Members: Chris Collins (co-chair), Benjamin Money (co-chair), Jason Baisden, Anne Braswell, Charles Bregier, Kellan Chapin, Katie Eyes, Elizabeth Freeman Lambar, Lin Hollowell, Chip Modlin, Connie Parker, Joy Reed, Steve Slott, Karen Stallings, John Torontow, Kristin Wade

NCIOM Staff: Kimberly Alexander-Bratcher, Thalia Fuller, Rachel Williams

Other Interested Persons: Holly Biola, Steve Cline, Doug DeGroot, Susan DeGroot, Markita Keaton, Tracy Linton, Catherine Moore, Vince Newton, Janice Petersen, John Price, Adolph Simmons, Jr., Chris Skowronek, Flo Stein, Shealy Thompson, John Womble

Welcome and Introductions

Chris Collins, MSW, Deputy Director, Office of Rural Health and Community Care, Assistant Director, Division of Medical Assistance, NC Department of Health and Human Services, Co-chair

E. Benjamin Money, Jr., MPH, CEO, NC Community Health Center Association, Co-chair

Mr. Money welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked members to introduce themselves.

NC Health Information Technology (HIT)

Steve Cline, DDS, MPH, State HIT Coordinator, NC Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Cline presented an overview of federal goals for HIT, HITECH (Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health) grants North Carolina has received, HIT infrastructure in North Carolina, and how HIT fits into the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. His presentation can be found here: [NC HIT](#).

Selected questions and comments:

- Q: There is no certified dental software for electronic health records (EHR). What is the process for getting software certified? A: A federal initiative would be needed to get that done. Dentists are an eligible group of providers for the Medicaid incentive payment program, however they do not have the software for that yet.

- Q: There has been a dilemma for smaller practices to meet the dollars needed up front to get the incentive payments from Medicaid. Is there any financing available to help meet those dollars? A: The federal government has said they will fund a financing program but nothing else is known. North Carolina has a state-financing program for electronic medical records. Some software vendors are offering financing for this as well.
- Q: How will the privacy of patients be protected? A: EHR will not change how providers exchange information; it will just be done electronically rather than by paper. The exchange is where patient records will need to be protected. One of the HIT workgroups is focused on the landscape of security in North Carolina to ensure the security of patient records and compliance to HIPAA.

Controlled Substances Reporting System

John Womble, Program Consultant, NC Controlled Substance Reporting System, NC Department of Health and Human Services

Mr. Womble gave an overview of the North Carolina Controlled Substance Reporting System (NCCSRS). Providers, law enforcement, licensing boards, medical examiners, the Division of Medical Assistance, and authorized individuals can access a patient's controlled substance prescription history online. The database allows providers to create informed plans of care for patients and alerts other entities to possible fraud or abuse. His presentation can be found here: [NCCSRS](#).

Selected questions and comments:

- Q: Does the information go into the system every time a prescription is filled? A: Pharmacies send in data every seven days.
- Q: Have there been any issues with e-prescribing? A: A provider cannot prescribe controlled substances over the Internet. It would be beneficial since it would eliminate any possible tampering with a paper prescription.
- Q: Are there any recommendations to prescribers on the site for handling cases of abuse? A: There is a list of do's and don'ts, but not specific recommendations. There is also a treatment page where a provider can enter in an address and get a map of nearby treatment facilities.

NC Community Care Networks' (NCCN) Provider Portal

Holly Biola, MD, MPH, Physician Consultant, Geriatrics/Family Medicine/Preventive Medicine, NC Community Care Networks

Dr. Biola explained how the NCCCN Provider Portal can be used to improve patient care and reduce costs. The portal is available to all CCNC providers who register with the site. Patient prescriptions and medical histories can be accessed through the database. The site's Meducation section contains prescription instructions, how-to videos for basic medical procedures, and care instructions and can translate them into many different languages (including pictures for low-literacy patients). Her presentation can be found here: [NC-CCN Provider Portal](#).

Selected questions and comments:

- Q: Has there been any outcome evaluation of the portal? A: The developer might have something like that, but in practice, it is too time consuming.
- Q: Have the language translations been reviewed to see how good they are? A: Yes, the translations are performed by professionals, not a computer.
- Q: Are there any plans to link this system with the new Health Information Exchange? A: We are working closely with them so when the time comes we will be ready to link in.
- Q: How are care managers working with Medicaid patients using this system? A: It is being used for a quick claims check since it is easier to view than the current Case Management Information System (CMIS).
- We are working on entering in uninsured patients as well as building partnerships with all other payers to make this a universal system.

Workgroup Updates

- Applications for the Health Resources and Services Administration health center planning grants are available for organizations planning to apply for FQHC status. The maximum award is \$80,000 and applications are due by April 8, 2011.
- Ten Capital grants have been applied for to support school-based health centers in North Carolina.

Next Meeting

The next workgroup meeting is February 23 at 1:00pm in the NCIOM offices (630 Davis Drive, Suite 100, Morrisville, NC, 27560).

Public Comment Period

No further public comments were given.