Personalizing Health Committee Meeting Summary
May 9, 2006

Audio Conference

EHR Taskforce Members	**Staff Members**
Mary Thompson, Chair	Jeff W. Johnson
Alan Berkelhamer, R.Ph.	Fee Habtes
Brian Bragg	
Maria I. Ferrera	**Guests**
Laura K. Feste	Mary Ring
Todd W. Hart	
Kathy Herold representing Larry Boress, Ph.D.	
Arnold L. Widen, M.D., M.S., FACP	

With a quorum present, Chair Mary Thompson convened the meeting at 1:06 p.m.   Ms. Thompson discussed the Taskforce Steering Committee meeting held on May 8. The Steering Committee had adopted a work plan and a mission statement. She read the mission statement to the committee and stated that the goal of the committee is to develop objectives for the Personal Health Committee that are consistent with the mission statement agreed upon at the Taskforce Steering Committee Meeting.

Ms. Thompson noted that the Steering Committee had requested each committee to meet twice before the next Steering Committee meeting on July 6th. The committee is to provide a written report to the Steering Committee before the meeting.

The chair then asked Laura Feste to provide a brief overview of the Personal Health Record (PHR) materials that she had provided for distribution to the committee. Ms. Feste read three definitions of PHR to committee. The definitions came from the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), and, the Markle Foundation. Common elements in the definitions include: the electronic format of the record; the record is maintained by the patient; the PHR is portable; and, confidential.

Ms. Thompson stated that she would try to synthesize the definitions into a proposed committee definition of PHR. She would send multiple definitions of PHR to the members for their input.

The chair also indicated that she would distribute a list of related articles to the members to read prior to the next meeting.

The next agenda item was a discussion of issues and concerns relating to PHR. Maria Ferrera contributed information about employer-provided Web-based programs being offered to employees.

Issues and concerns identified by the committee included:

- Security of online health portals;
- Interoperability of systems to facilitate data exchange;
- Identifying what information should be included/excluded on the PHR, e.g. an individual could choose to exclude mental health information;
- Responsibility to educate individuals. While some employers may take responsibility, who is responsible for the general public?
- Ownership and access rights of individual PHRs without compromising confidentiality or violating existing laws relating to parental consent;
- Availability of user-friendly PHR formats for all segments of society; and
- Portability of records especially for employees who may be participating in employer-sponsored programs.

Ms. Thompson discussed holding perhaps two meetings in June. Members expressed an interest in having one meeting in a video conference format and at least one face-to-face meeting before presenting a report to the Steering Committee. Jeff Johnson agreed to research the availability of facilities with video conference capabilities for the next meeting. Committee members asked the Chair to provide possible dates for future committee meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.