

Electronic Health Records (EHR) Taskforce Steering Committee Meeting Summary

**May 8, 2006
Audio Conference**

Steering Committee Members

Craig Backs, M.D.
Ellen S. Brull, M.D.
Bradford A. Buxton
Jonathan Dopkeen, Ph.D.
William Kempiners
Patricia Merryweather
Joyce Sensmeier
Mary Thompson

Other Taskforce Members

Todd Hart
Nancy Semerdjian

Guests

Irwin Day
Patrick Gallagher

Staff Members

Jeff W. Johnson
Ariel Katz

A quorum was declared by the Chair, Jonathan Dopkeen, and the Steering Committee meeting started at 9:07 a.m. The Chair outlined the meeting agenda.

The first item of business was the adoption of the meeting summary for the April 5, 2006, Steering Committee meeting. Mr. Buxton moved to approve the meeting summary. The motion was seconded and the summary was approved.

Dr. Dopkeen went on to the next order of business the discussion of the Taskforce Mission Statement. Dr. Backs expressed concern about the wording of the second sentence of the draft Mission Statement which states:

The Taskforce will assure that electronic health records in Illinois become interoperable with other states, that patients' legal and personal rights to privacy are safeguarded, and that the transport, management and uses of the data are appropriate to enhancing the safe provision of healthcare for individuals, providers and the public at large.

He felt that it would be difficult for the Taskforce to provide assurances of interoperability with other states since Illinois would have no control over what those states would do. Dr. Backs proposed to replace the phrase, "become interoperable with other states," with one providing that records be compatible with federal standards.

Another member agreed that there was a need to adopt some language relating to federal standards, she felt the mission statement needed to include the “interoperable” language.

After some brief discussion, Dr. Backs suggested changing the language to “become interoperable with other states consistent with federal standards.”

With the members in agreement, Dr. Backs moved for the adoption of the Mission Statement. The motion was seconded and adopted.

The next order of business was the review of the “EHR Taskforce Work Plan” flowchart. Ms. Merryweather questioned whether the work plan’s deadline for submitting a report would result in any Taskforce budget recommendations being too late for effective consideration by the General Assembly’s spring 2007 session.

Mr. Kempiners indicated that he did not believe that it would not be too late, but the Taskforce should consider having some decisions made by the fall veto session so that Rep. Julie Hamos could deal with any issues that may need to be addressed.

The suggestion was made to revise the work plan to require the Steering Committee to recommend a draft report by November 1, 2006.

Dr. Backs moved to approve the work plan with the assumption that there would be some flexibility. Mr. Kempiners seconded the motion. The work plan was approved.

Dr. Dopkeen started the open discussion portion of the agenda by discussing the draft “Primer Issues and Questions” documents for each Taskforce committee. These documents are intended to “prime” or help assist the committees identify issues for discussion. It was the consensus of the Steering Committee that these documents be forwarded to the respective committee chairs.

Ms. Sensmeier asked about having someone follow the national American Health Information Community effort as a source of information for the committees. Dr. Dopkeen indicated that he would look into it.

Dr. Dopkeen asked about future meetings. Steering committee members felt that the next meeting should occur after the other committees have held at least two meetings. It was suggested that July 6, 2006, would be a good date to convene the next meeting. That gives the other committees approximately 6 weeks to hold two meetings.

Upon agreeing on a date, it was suggested and agreed to that the next meeting be a video conference. Dr. Dopkeen indicated that staff would look at location options.

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.