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February 2014



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eHHR Featured in Illinois Framework for Healthcare & Human Services

Illinois requested an interview with Virginia's Health and Human Resources Secretariat as research for its newly published handbook. The handbook titled, "Establishing Governance for Health and Human Services Interoperability Initiatives" is a guide for implementing governance in cross-agency settings. Virginia was chosen along with a handful of other states to highlight a successful Health and Human Resources governance structure.

The handbook included the Virginia eHHR Program Charter's vision statement as a guiding example for other states: "To leverage information technology to improve healthcare and human services for Virginians by providing access to the right services for the right people at the right time and for the right cost."

Dr. William A. Hazel Jr., Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources, was asked to describe how Virginia manages the complex nature of working across agency boundaries: "At least monthly, the key players are face-to-face in a room. They know where we are, and the bodies that watch us – the Auditor of Public Accounts, the Attorney General's office, everybody – has an opportunity to be fully informed and engaged. So the purpose of the meeting is several-fold. But I would say: yes, we make decisions, and a lot of those decisions really are pretty obvious. Knowing that it's transparent is really important...everything gets done. There is no, 'I never knew.'"

Along with the eHHR Charter, the handbook also cites as an example for other states Virginia's Memorandum of Understanding that commits the Department of Social Services, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, the Office of the Executive Secretary, and the Supreme Court of Virginia to work together to develop and improve the state and local infrastructure to support the collaborative works of local agencies and courts on behalf of children and families.

The handbook is downloadable at <http://illinoisframework.org/governance/handbook-for-states/>. It also includes audio recordings of interviews, links to reports and white papers, and a toolkit of key documents such as charters and memoranda.



Medicaid Coverage for Former Foster Care Youth

In compliance with The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services is amending policy to implement a new Medicaid coverage group for former foster care youth who were receiving Virginia Medicaid at the time of their 18th birthday. Individuals who meet the requirements for this group may be eligible for coverage until age 26.

Currently, there are roughly 6,700 eligible young adults who have already left the Department of Social Services custody who may apply for Medicaid benefits. There are between 500 - 800 eligible youth leaving the Virginia foster care system each year. Youth discharged from foster care services are at high risk for a number of negative outcomes: homelessness, incarceration, and substance abuse are among those risks. Enrollment into Medicaid will provide access to a variety of health care services; this includes preventive medical care, dental care, prescription medications, mental health and behavioral counseling, and substance abuse counseling.

More information and links to Medicaid applications are available at http://www.coverva.org/main_news.cfm.

OneMind: Electronic Health Records Update

The last few months have been a time of transition for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services' (DBHDS) OneMind electronic health records system (EHRS) project. The 2013 objective to implement the Siemens Soarian EHRS in three pilot hospitals (Eastern State Hospital, Western State Hospital, and Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute) was



simultaneously successful in achieving important federal deadlines for project funding and in revealing the enormous scope of work necessary to develop, support, and expand use of OneMind across the full breadth of the behavioral health environment.

A key 2013 milestone for OneMind implementation was to attest to Meaningful Use of OneMind in order to qualify for federal incentives that will help offset the cost of the project. Meaningful Use requirements intensify through stages and are important considerations for healthcare delivery processes using EHRS. Three of six eligible hospitals successfully adopted OneMind for partial use in June 2013 and have submitted the required reports to initialize the Meaningful Use funding stream.

The next major milestone for the OneMind implementation project is to expand OneMind use to all beds in the pilot hospitals. It is estimated that full functionality of OneMind in the pilot hospitals will begin in the second quarter of calendar year 2014 and continue into the third quarter.

Phase 2 of the implementation project begins following successful use of OneMind in all three Phase 1 pilot hospitals. It is projected that the first Phase 2 hospital will go-live in September 2014 and that all hospitals will be using OneMind by the end of year 2015. Conversion of the revenue reimbursement system from Avatar to Soarian Financials (Phase 3 of the implementation project) will begin in 2015 and extend into 2016. These timeframes are estimates and are subject to adjustment as OneMind continues to roll out. Flexibility has been important to the project and will remain so.

Virginia Named Finalist in the 2014 ACT-IAC Excellence.Gov Awards

The American Council for Technology and the Industry Advisory Council has selected the eHHR Program as one of five finalists for its 2014 ACT-IAC Excellence.Gov Awards. The reception and awards ceremony will take place in Washington D.C. in late March.

ITSP Publication & Follow-up Plans



The eHHR Information Technology Strategic Plan (ITSP) Addendum has been reviewed and approved by Secretary Hazel and Virginia agency directors. This document provides an inventory of IT projects planned for 2014-2016. Next steps include identifying opportunities to modernize and streamline HHR systems and to leverage the tools and processes developed for eHHR where they provide value.

In the original Strategic Plan 2012 – 2014, Secretary Hazel's six agency goals were designed to leverage information technology to improve health care and human services for Virginians. In the updated Strategic Plan, there are multiple opportunities to build on current partnerships, as well as to identify new synergy opportunities. To move forward and validate these synergy opportunities, the following next steps are planned:

- ◆ Phase I – As schedules allow with the General Assembly (GA) in session, eHHR resources will meet with agency CIOs/technology leaders to review the agency projects in the ITSP.
- ◆ Phase II – Working jointly with the agency technology leaders, eHHR resources will prepare a solution overview on how projects can potentially benefit from eHHR tools/processes/services.
- ◆ Phase III – The eHHR resources will present a summary update of suggested opportunities at an upcoming agency heads meeting.
- ◆ Phase IV – Finally, the eHHR resources will compile the final solution overviews into a HHR shared document that will be available to all.

Phase I should be starting in early February, with a target to complete Phase II by mid-March. The updated ITSP is posted on the eHHR website at <http://www.ehhr.virginia.gov/docs/HHR-IT-Strategic-Plan-2014-Update-Final.pdf>.

eHHR Online

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Questions or Comments?

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