

## Inside eHHR

April 2013



### Launches Plan to Enhance Information Management

The Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) has kicked off a Commonwealth-wide strategic planning process to improve the way state government manages information. The plan, known as the Commonwealth Enterprise Information Architecture (EIA) Strategy, articulates a strategic vision supported by measurable goals and objectives in four EIA program areas: data governance, data standardization, data asset management and data sharing.

VITA sees the EIA strategy as an integral part of its support for Virginia's eHHR Program and other enterprise-level information exchanges.

"The EIA Strategy aligns with the business objectives of the eHHR Program and similar efforts that require enterprise information sharing," said Joe Grubbs, VITA's Data Governance Service Lead. "The strategy will result in a detailed, performance-driven plan to support eHHR and enterprise initiatives into the future."

VITA has focused the plan to address key business drivers, including the need for high-quality and timely information, the ability to share information across agency data systems, the assurance of security, privacy and confidentiality, and a greater return on investment for information assets.

The Commonwealth EIA strategy represents an important step in the process set into motion last year by the Secretary of Technology Jim Duffey and Chief Information Officer Sam Nixon to build an integrated, enterprise-wide approach for the state to manage its information resources.

Secretary Duffey and CIO Nixon in July 2012 adopted new language into the Commonwealth's Enterprise Architecture policy providing a more robust definition of information architecture and establishing an EIA maturity model to guide Virginia to its desired "future state" for information management.

Data stewards and other stakeholders from more than a dozen Commonwealth agencies across Secretariats have participated in the strategic planning process. VITA expects to complete the EIA Strategy and post the plan for public comment by the end of April 2013. For more information on the Commonwealth EIA Strategy, visit: <http://www.vita.virginia.gov/oversight/dm/default.aspx?id=10340>.

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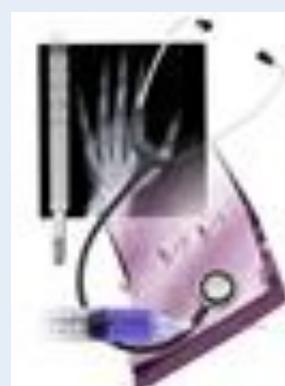
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#### Questions??

We invite you to send questions about the eHHR Program and its projects to the [eHHR Program Office](http://ehhr.virginia.gov).



### Connecting Virginia's Health Information

ConnectVirginia is the statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE) for the Commonwealth of Virginia. It provides a safe, confidential, electronic system to support the exchange of patient medical records among healthcare providers, both here in Virginia and beyond. Community Health Alliance (CHA) is the Virginia based non-profit vendor selected by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to implement the statewide HIE. CHA, VDH and a governing body of health care professionals and executives from across the Commonwealth are planning and managing this implementation.

ConnectVirginia currently offers two services, DIRECT Messaging and EXCHANGE. DIRECT Messaging is a service built upon the national Direct Project and is similar to a one-way secure e-mail for the exchange of Protected Health Information (PHI) between licensed or regulated health professionals. EXCHANGE is a collection of standards, policies and message-based services that provides a secure electronic two-way method to query and retrieve PHI between larger ConnectVirginia Nodes (i.e. hospital systems, Regional Health Information Organizations).

"Connect Virginia's EXCHANGE service is key to our vision to promote the electronic exchange of health care information as a standard of care in the Commonwealth. We want to make available to authorized users timely, accurate, comprehensive and easily-accessible information which can be used for coordination of care, improvements in safety and quality, and advancements in the provision of healthcare," says VDH.

ConnectVirginia is in the process of on boarding Inova, Northern Virginia's largest health care system, as its first Node. Making great strides towards electronically connecting health care providers and organizations throughout the Commonwealth, Inova is expected to complete the on boarding process by the end of April. Once this process is complete, Inova providers will be able to access health information for their patients from other health-care systems that will participate in EXCHANGE. "Inova is extremely proud to be the first health system to participate in statewide health information exchange" says Dr. Marshall Ruffin, the Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Inova. "Having information available at the point of care for our patients and our physicians will lead to better care and better health outcomes for the population of patients we serve."

Following Inova in 2013, the Commonwealth of Virginia (COV) plans to on board as a State Agency Node. When the COV Agency Node on boards to EXCHANGE, this will allow other Nodes to send Public Health reporting information directly to state agencies. State agencies will also have the ability to query and retrieve information from other Nodes. The Department of Medical Assistance Services plans to use ConnectVirginia and the COV Node to meet its Clinical Quality Measures (CQM) reporting requirement for Medicaid Providers. Automating and streamlining such processes will add to ConnectVirginia's value and help ensure the sustainability of the HIE.

ConnectVirginia's Governing Body established an HIE Sustainability Committee to create a plan to address the funding of on-going operation of the HIE. This committee has done research into models that have been tried in other states and is currently working to develop a fee model for ConnectVirginia that takes into account all potential value recipients for basic services. Additional value-added services are also being explored as well. This committee will propose a sustainability plan to its Governing Body for review and approval mid-year 2013 for implementation in late 2013, prior to the end of the contract period with VDH. For more information on ConnectVirginia, visit: [www.connectvirginia.org](http://www.connectvirginia.org).

### DMV & VDH Partner on Vital Records Issuance

Thanks to a new project getting underway, Virginians will have more options than ever for obtaining copies of their vital records in the next year. This new project specifically implements the provisions of Senate Bill 1039 (2013), providing the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) access to Virginia vital record information for the purpose of issuing certified copies of selected vital records. The state's vital records are maintained by the Virginia Department of Health's Division of Vital Records (VDH/DVR), which currently offers customers the opportunity to obtain copies of these records through the mail and through a customer service center in Richmond. Death, marriage and divorce records are also available through local Health Departments and through the Courts. This project will greatly expand customer options for walk-in service by offering vital record issuance at all of DMV's 80 walk-in service outlets across the state.



DMV, in collaboration with VDH/DVR, will develop a secure web service user interface that will foster secure transmittal of data between VDH/DVR and DMV, and enable printing of certified copies of vital records at each DMV customer service center. The certified copies will be identical in all respects to the ones issued directly from VDH/DVR.

The project will be implemented in phases. Currently, VDH/DVR maintains in electronic format birth records issued since 1912. The project's first phase, which will go live on March 1, 2014, will allow for these electronic records to be accessed via a web service and for the birth certificates to be printed at the DMV offices. With phase two beginning January 1, 2015, all other birth certificates and all death, marriage, and divorce certificates will become available at DMV offices. Since the records covered by phase two are not currently in electronic format, the team will be challenged with developing an efficient method of transmitting images of those vital records to DMV for printing onto the Commonwealth's vital record security paper.

DMV and VDH/DVR staff have begun requirements development for the business and systems changes necessary to implement this new service.

### New eHHR Website!

We're pleased to announce that the eHHR website is now live. Please visit us at:

<http://ehhr.virginia.gov>

**Questions or comments?**

**Email: [ehhrprogram@dmass.virginia.gov](mailto:ehhrprogram@dmass.virginia.gov)**