

<h1>California eHealth Bulletin</h1>	NUMBER: 2010-03-1
WEBSITE: <a href="http://WWW.EHEALTH.CA.GOV">WWW.EHEALTH.CA.GOV</a> E-MAIL: <a href="mailto:EHEALTH@CHHS.CA.GOV">EHEALTH@CHHS.CA.GOV</a> PUBLIC WORKSPACE: <a href="http://CHHSEHEALTH.PROJECTSPACES.COM">HTTP://CHHSEHEALTH.PROJECTSPACES.COM</a> TWITTER: <a href="http://TWITTER.COM/CAEHEALTH">HTTP://TWITTER.COM/CAEHEALTH</a>	<b>MARCH 9, 2010</b>
<p><b>The purpose of this bulletin is to communicate the status of California's eHealth initiatives, including the development of an operational plan, designation of a health information exchange governance entity and other ARRA and HITECH-related programs.</b></p>	

TO: California eHealth Stakeholder Listserv (sign-up at: [ehealth@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:ehealth@chhs.ca.gov))

FROM: Jonah Frohlich  
 Deputy Secretary, Health Information Technology  
 California Health & Human Services Agency (CHHS)

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### (1) Health Information Exchange Governance Entity

Last fall we undertook a request for information (RFI) process to identify suitable entities that could govern information exchange under the federal HITECH program. Yesterday we announced that an organization formed by the board members of the California eHealth Collaborative (CAeHC) and CalRHIO will be that entity. The organization, **Cal eConnect** will still need to be approved by the Federal Government and sign a grant agreement with the State but we announced our intent to name Cal eConnect today so that we may move ahead as openly and transparently as possible. Cal eConnect will provide leadership and oversee a collaborative, open and inclusive process to develop and support HIE services in California, and establish ground rules by which health information may be shared safely, securely and appropriately among stakeholders. It will also oversee and manage the implementation of HIE services in California under the federal grant program.

Cal eConnect will have a 22 member board, and will include both members of State government, public and private organizations in accordance with SB 337 (Alquist). The board will have the following structure:

1. California Assembly Committee on Health Chair (or his or her designee)
2. California Senate Committee on Health Chair (or his or her designee)
3. California Secretary of the Health & Human Services Agency (or his or her designee)
4. California State Administrator (determined by State, may include the Department of Health Care Services, Department of Managed Health Care or other departments)
5. CEO of the HIE-GE
6. Co-chair (at-large - 1)

7. Co-chair (at-large - 2)
8. Consumer (1)
9. Consumer (2)
10. Employer
11. Health Informatics
12. Health information exchange organization (1)
13. Health information exchange organization (2)
14. Health Plan – private
15. Health Plan - public
16. Hospital - private
17. Hospital - public
18. Labor
19. Physician – Independent
20. Physician – Medical Group
21. Public health (local public health officer)
22. Safety net clinic

Cal eConnect is establishing a set of priorities that will assist eligible providers and hospitals obtain meaningful use. It must also operate in and support an open and transparent environment that fosters trust amongst all stakeholders. And it must ensure that the needs of the safety net are met. An initial board is being formed and will consist of the following:

1. David Lansky (Co-chair)
2. Don Crane (Co-chair)
3. Marge Ginsburg (Consumer)
4. Bill Beighe (Health Information Exchange Organization)
5. Howard Kahn (Public Health Plan)
6. David Joyner (Private Health Plan)
7. Tom Priselac (Private Hospital)
8. Brennan Cassidy, MD (Independent physician)
9. Ron Jimenez, MD (Public Hospital)
10. (Community Clinic representative to be announced shortly)

An executive committee from this initial board will be charged with identifying the remaining board members, hiring a Chief Executive Officer, establishing bylaws, policies and procedures, reviewing and updating the HIE operational and strategic plans and carrying out activities to prepare it for this undertaking. We are very pleased with this announcement and look forward to supporting them as they work collaboratively with extension centers, the Medi-Cal meaningful use program, California consumers and our provider and hospital community.

## **(2) Operational Plan and eHealth Summit**

The Operational Plan was released yesterday for public comment and will be in public comment through March 22. We will be hosting an eHealth summit in Santa Ana on March 11 to support his public comment period – members of the public are welcome to attend in person and the session will be webcast.

Information about public comment submissions can be found here:  
<http://www.ehealth.ca.gov/PublicComment/tabid/103/Default.aspx>

and more on the summit can be found on our website here:  
<http://www.ehealth.ca.gov/Summit/tabid/109/Default.aspx>

Below is our timeline:

- Monday March 8: Public comment of the operational plan begins
- Thursday March 11: eHealth Summit, (Santa Ana)
- Monday March 22: Public comment of the operational plan ends
- Wednesday March 31: Operational Plan completed

### **(3) HIMSS Interoperability Demonstration**

Last week three California-based health information exchange organizations successfully demonstrated how their networks, in collaboration with CHHS and the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) can support health information exchange across California. The *Coordinating Care Across California* Demonstration included Santa Cruz HIE in Northern CA, operated by Physicians Medical Group, EKCITA in Tehachapi, CA, and the Long Beach Network for Health (LBNH) in Southern CA, each used different NHIN compatible software to demonstrate the ability to connect to each other - retrieving critical clinical information. The HIE participants exchanged clinical patient summaries, electronically sending the type of referral document which might otherwise be faxed or sent by paper between a referring primary care physician and a specialist.

CHHS recognizes the leadership and wishes to thank Bill Beighe from Santa Cruz HIE, Kiki Nocella from EKCITA, and Laura Landry from LBNH for putting in the time and resources to make this a success, Robert Cothren from Cognosante for his support in managing the activities to help get the demonstration ready, and Vish Sankaran from ONC for helping to pull it together.

### **Federal Updates**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published its notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) and Standards and Certification Interim Final Rule (IFR) on December 30, 2009. These proposed regulations are now open for public comment and will be open until March 15; you can submit comments on their website [here](#) (click on "What's Hot: most visited regulations", it's the "Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Electronic Health Record Incentive Program" link) - we would encourage you to engage in this process. CMS is receptive to public comment, but comments are most effective if a few guidelines are followed:

1. Substantiate any claim you are making with information and data (e.g., as a result of this provision in the NPRM, X number of critical access hospitals would not qualify as Medi-Cal eligible hospitals)
2. If you receive a template public comment letter from a colleague asking you to sign it, customize it, so that it is not an exact copy of what you received, and tailor its message to the needs of your constituents

3. Encourage as many of your colleagues to submit comments, and encourage them to adhere to #1 and #2 above

We also encourage you to do the following:

1. Work with your state associations (if you belong to one) or relevant stakeholder representative organization, encourage them to support a public comment campaign
2. Copy them on your public comments and send us a copy as well (send it to [ehealth@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:ehealth@chhs.ca.gov)).

### **Upcoming Events & Dates**

- **Thursday March 11: eHealth Summit,**  
(<http://www.ehealth.ca.gov/Summit/tabid/109/Default.aspx>)
- **Thursday March 18, 2010: California eHealth Stakeholder Webinar (NOTE DATE & TIME):**
  - 1-2 PM, PST
  - Participant Toll Free: (877) 531-2985
  - Pass code: 120655
  - Webinar Sign-up: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/314508848>

***Sign up to receive these updates, or just let us know what you think:***  
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