

From the President's Desk

Dear Arkansas HIMSS Chapter Members,

The Arkansas Chapter Board has been busy planning the upcoming Chapter Event in Memphis, TN and we are co-hosting with the Tennessee HIMSS Chapter. Block your calendar for December 6th and bring your friends. This will be a great event and well worth the travel. For more information, check out the Arkansas HIMSS website at www.arkansashimss.org.

MEMBERSHIP:

Our Chapter is experiencing a membership growth trend. We are approaching 90 members. I wish to commend David Greenway, Member Chair and his Membership Committee as well as everyone else who has enabled this to happen. Our goal for 2008 is to achieve 100+ members. Let us know if you have a business associate or student who is interested in HIMSS.

WEBSITE:

"Extreme Makeover" comes to our Chapter website to provide you more value. Kathy Roth is leading this initiative for us and is doing an outstanding job (see website news article for more information). Check it out at www.arkansasHIMSS.com.

INFORMATION SHARING:

During a Chapter Board retreat this past summer it was agreed to provide members an opportunity to post articles, opinions, or career change information. These "short"/articles would be posted to our website for the benefit of our membership and in our quarterly newsletter. If you feel inspired to write about a professional issue or have an opinion piece that would promote our professional development please submit it to one of the HIMSS Board members. The Board will review for possible posting along with the Board minutes and Speaker presentations.

SPONSORSHIP:

We have been blessed this year to have been sponsored by AT&T, GDH Consulting, IBM, and Windstream Communications. Their contributions have been invaluable to our Arkansas HIMSS chapter.

Our sponsorship chair, James Gaston, is re-vamping our sponsorship program to include more sponsorship opportunities and a greater variety. For example, our HIMSS chapter hopes to offer membership scholarships for students interested in Healthcare IT. In addition, we are planning sponsorship opportunities within our quarterly newsletter and 2 meeting events TBD in 2008. If you are interested in sponsorship of our HIMSS chapter please contact James at 501-399-3842 (jegaston@arkbluecross.com).

We are looking forward to a very successful 2007 – 2008 year.

Sincerely,

Adena Handy, CPHIMS, FHIMSS
President – Arkansas HIMSS Chapter

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Newsletter Sponsors



Bulletin Board

- Do you know of a fellow Arkansas HIMSS member that you feel needs to be recognized for their hard work and contribution to the industry? We would like to spotlight their achievement in our new "Member Spotlight" section of the newsletter. If so, please communicate to david.greenway@baptist-health.org.
- Congratulation goes out to Danny Kelley for winning the iPod. Everyone who participated in the recent membership survey had a chance to win.
- Congratulations to the following Arkansas Healthcare organizations for being named to the Hospital & Health Networks 2007 "Most Wired" and "Most Improved" lists:
 - Baptist Health (Most Wired)
 - UAMS Medical Center (Most Wired)
 - Stuttgart Regional Medical Center (Most Improved)
- Are you interested in becoming a sponsor of the Arkansas HIMSS Chapter? Please contact James Gaston - jegaston@arkbluecross.com for information if interested.
- Are you interested in being a speaker at one of the chapter meeting programs? If so please contact Debbie Green at debbie.green@baptist-health.org
- This newsletter is for you! We intend to provide useful and interesting information to our chapter members. Please send any comments or suggestions to David Greenway/Membership & Communications Chair at david.greenway@baptist-health.org.

Upcoming Events

Arkansas/Tennessee HIMSS Chapters Educational Forum

Covering Technology Adoption for Medical Practices and Hospitals

Mark this date! The Arkansas / Tennessee HIMSS chapters have joined together to create a two state meeting to provide you a phenomenal education program. The official agenda is still being finalized; however, below you will find some general information. Once everything is official, you will receive another notification.

Thursday, December 6th (10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

"The Zone" FedEx Institute of Technology
365 Innovation Drive
Memphis, TN

Open to all current and potential Arkansas HIMSS members!

Some of the topics covered will be:

- Emerging Technologies
- Technology Adoption
- CIO Panel – "Successful Adoption Strategies"
- EHR in Medical Practices
- RFID

You will receive more information once all event details have been finalized.

We hope to see you in Memphis!!

Member Spotlight



Randal Piechocki

Manager of Data Administration and Applications Development/ Baptist Health

Randal is the I.S. Manager of Applications Development and Data Administration team at Baptist Health in Little Rock, Arkansas. He has over 14 years of service at Baptist Health, with the primary focus on in-house development of patient registration, billing, collections, and ad-hoc reporting. Previously, Randal was a programmer for a Little Rock based company that provided banking portfolio software and ATM management software worldwide. He joined the IT industry in 1984 as a computer operator for a Little Rock based data processing center for nationwide retail businesses. Randal holds a B. Sc. Degree in Computer Science from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

"As a Healthcare and Business Information Management professional, Randal has direct involvement in many different types of projects that affect the success of the state's largest health system and ultimately the care of a large portion of our state's patient population. This experience and exposure allows Randal a unique and qualified perspective on what information solutions and processes are of the most value to healthcare in Arkansas. As an individual, I have found Randal to be open to new ideas, willing to share experiences, humble about his successes, and a team player." (Andy Ketch, Acxiom Healthcare)

The Arkansas HIMSS chapter would like to recognize Randal for his hard work and dedication to the HIT industry.

Newsletter Sponsors



eHealth Arkansas – Connecting to the future

Brian Witt, HIT Specialist AFMC

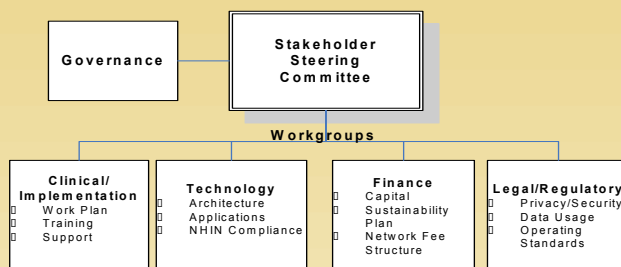
The first goal is being directed by a Quality Measure Steering Committee that has identified four chronic diseases: diabetes, cervical cancer, well-child visits, and adult access for preventive care. The group will use Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) specifications for data received from the participating payers for the selected diseases to analyze and trend quality improvement opportunities. To achieve an action plan for the second goal, an HIE Steering Committee was developed. A business plan will be established to create an HIE infrastructure across the state for licensed healthcare providers to use for the purpose of providing quality treatment. To complete this task, workgroups have been created.

Arkansas, like many other states, is struggling with President Bush's request for most Americans to have electronic health records by 2014. Nationally, healthcare providers encounter barriers such as funding issues and a lack of patient trust regarding privacy and security. Arkansas is also battling these barriers, in addition to the fact that over 70% of the states primary care practices consists of three or less practitioners. Being a rural state, Arkansas is also one of the least "wired" states in the country.

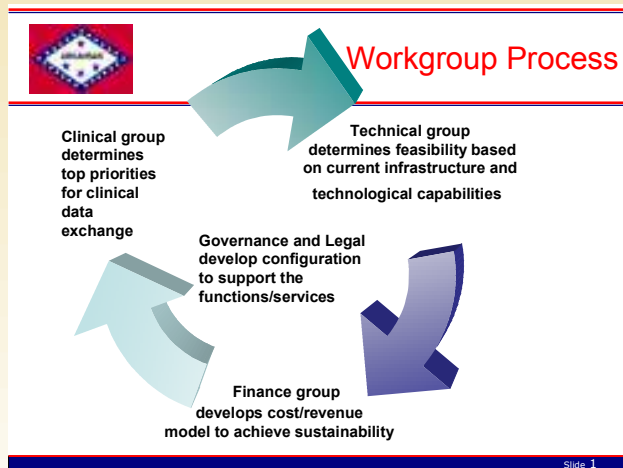
Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care (AFMC) DOQ-IT (Doctors' Office Quality Information Technology) program provides technical and quality improvement assistance to physician offices which have or are planning to adopt electronic health records (EHR) and information technology (IT). Over 270 physician practices representing approximately 700 physicians in Arkansas participate in DOQ-IT. DOQ-IT was initiated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in May 2004 to promote the use of EHR and IT as a way to improve quality of care and patient safety. As a leader of health information technology (HIT) initiatives in Arkansas, AFMC also promotes the Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE) system and the Bar Code Medication Administration (BCMA) systems in hospitals. AFMC also assists a small number of providers in the state with home telehealth efforts. Home telehealth uses phone monitoring and/or telemonitoring to help patients manage their medications at home as a way to reduce hospitalizations.

AFMC, on behalf of the Arkansas Department of Human Services' Division of Medical Services, received a grant from the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) to support the Regional Quality Improvement (RQI) program. The objective of the program is to accelerate improvements in chronic care in targeted regions across the country where Medicaid is a leading force in the health care marketplace. There are two goals of the RQI project: 1) Identify common metrics for clinical performance measures to be used by payers in the state, thereby creating a uniform data set which could be used to understand health care delivery and improve its effectiveness. 2) Develop a business plan for creation of an organization, along with a strategic plan to create and support health information exchange (HIE). AFMC, through its experience of working with Arkansas stakeholders, has established steering committees to assist with both goals.

HIE Committee Structure



AFMC recognizes the magnitude of this project and has engaged national subject matter experts to share their experiences from involvement with other state and national initiatives. The workgroups are using a "waterfall" approach to cycle information between each group as development of the HIE roadmap begins to evolve. Each workgroup has its own charter and objectives that they have been focused on over the last three months.



To achieve an integrated healthcare system throughout the state, there must be consensus from all healthcare providers. To gain statewide momentum and input, AFMC will be hosting a day long conference on October 24, 2007 in Little Rock. The conference will include a keynote address from Governor Beebe and will showcase both national initiatives as well as statewide success along with a progress report of the RQI initiative. Through collaboration among healthcare providers and consumers, Arkansas will reach the goal of connecting to the future.

Rural Healthcare in Arkansas

Becky Rains, PMP Strategic Funding Program Manager, AR Department of Information Systems

Imagine...every Arkansan with access to quality healthcare. The State of Arkansas has the vision to provide all citizens with adequate healthcare through the first true statewide telehealth network in the nation. The availability of health-care in rural areas of Arkansas is insufficient, and people of this state are suffering because of the limited access.

With all of the advancements in medicine we've witnessed over the past few years, it is hard to believe that many Arkansans don't have local access to a pediatrician to provide for their children's healthcare needs, or that an elderly citizen has to find transportation to a cardiologist more than 100 miles away. Staggering statistics display the lack of access to quality healthcare in the rural and remote areas of the state. A state-wide telehealth network connecting rural communities with quality healthcare providers would address the current inadequacies in our healthcare system.

Arkansas' healthcare system is in a current state of need.

- Arkansas ranks 46th out of 50 states in overall health status. The State's status has declined from a rank of 45th in 1990.
- Arkansas ranks 46th in premature death.
- Arkansas ranks 41st in infant mortality.
- Arkansas ranks 44th in cardiovascular health.
- Arkansas ranks 44th in obesity.

Why does Arkansas need a combined state-wide telehealth network?

- 73 out of 75 Arkansas counties are considered medically under-served by the U.S. Health Resources Service Administration.
- Most rural communities do not have access to medical specialists.
- Four rural Arkansas hospitals closed their doors in the past three years. It is not feasible to re-open a hospital once it is closed.
- Without available healthcare, rural communities are unable to attract business and industry.

What are the benefits of a single telehealth network?

- Provide higher quality healthcare to under-served, rural, and remote areas of the State of Arkansas.
- Increase the utilization, cost effectiveness and quality of service of existing networks.
- Reduce overall healthcare costs.
- Improve the effectiveness of telehealth providers by eliminating the burden of managing their own network infrastructure.
- Enhance the healthcare community's ability to provide a rapid and coordinated response in the event of a crisis or disaster.

What is the proposed Arkansas Telehealth Network?

- A telehealth network connecting all acute care hospitals, publicly funded health clinics, not-for-profit community health centers, publicly funded mental healthcare facilities, and the State education network.
- A telehealth network providing bandwidth for video and data.
- A telehealth network supporting remote diagnosis and treatment
- The network would also be open to for-profit healthcare providers on a pay-as-you-go basis.

What are some ways the network will be used?

- Remote access to specialists not available in local communities.
- OB-GYN
- Cardiology
- Psychiatry
- Neurology
- Pathology
- Remote health monitoring.

- Remote interpretation and storage of digital medical images.
- Tele-pharmacy applications.
- Health education and training.
- Disaster preparedness and response.

Who will benefit?

- All Arkansas citizens, especially those in rural communities.
- Healthcare providers across the state.
- The State of Arkansas through the reduction of healthcare costs.

Who is included in the proposed state-wide telehealth network?

- Hospitals
- Community Health Centers
- Local Health Departments
- Community Mental Health Centers
- Therapy Centers
- Nursing Schools
- K-12 Education
- Private pay entities

How will the process of connecting healthcare organizations work?

- The State will be divided into Delta Region (Priority 1) and Non-Delta Region (Priority 2).
- Within the two Arkansas Regions, Public and Not-for-Profit Sites will be determined for connection.
- Federal rurality codes will determine the order of connection within each priority and region, with the most rural areas connected first.
- Private pay entities in both regions will also be determined. Those entities will be eligible for connection, but will provide their own funding.
- Approximately 100 sites will be connected per year.

Who are the Arkansas Telehealth Oversight and Management Members (ATOM)

- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)
- Baptist Health
- Arkansas Department of Information Systems (DIS)
- Arkansas Department of Health (DOH)
- Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Delta Regional Authority (DRA)
- Community Health Centers of Arkansas (CHCA)
- Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)
- St. Vincent,
- DHHS Health & IT Services
- TRACS
- Day Spring
- Arkansas Research & Education Optical Network (AREON)
- Mental Health Center for Health Improvement (MHCA)
- Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI)
- Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care (AFMC)
- Arkansas Hospital Association (AHA)

Who would manage the telehealth network?

- The Arkansas Telehealth Oversight Management Infrastructure Creation (ATOMIC) Board of Directors will develop operational policies, approve all contracts, and develop strategic plans for the state-wide telehealth network.
- The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) will apply for the FCC grant and manage those funds on behalf of ATOMIC member organizations.
- Day-to-day management of contracted services will be jointly overseen by the Arkansas Department of Health (DOH), Department of Human Services (DHHS), Arkansas Hospital Association (AHA), UAMS, and Baptist Health.
- The Arkansas Department of Information Systems (DIS) will manage network improvements and provide on-going support of the state network.