

# Minnesota e-Health Initiative Advisory Committee

MEETING SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

## Attendees

**Members present:** Sonja Short, Peter Schuna, Alan Abramson, Sunny Ainley, Karl Anderson, James Dungan-Seaver, Jennifer Fritz, Cathy Gagne, Steve Johnson, George Klauser, Patricia Lang, Jennifer Lundblad, Audrey Hansen, Heather Petermann, James Roeder, Adam Stone, Meyrick Vaz, Eleanor Vita, Sandy Zutz-Wiczek

**Members absent:** Stacie Christensen, Bobbie McAdam, Lisa Moon, Jonathan Shoemaker, Steve Simenson

**Alternates present:** Daniel Ackert, Mark Jurkovich, Maiyia Kasouaher, Paul Kleeberg, Charles Peterson, Susan Severson

**Alternates absent:** Justin McMartin, Rui Zhang

Call to order at 1:02 pm

## Meeting objectives

- Review and update committee charge
- Learn about and respond to public health reporting interoperability efforts
- Understand progress on connected networks governance implementation

## Committee charge

Each year the committee's charge is updated to reflect expected issues and efforts. Without the benefit of late-summer planning meeting, the committee reviewed the 2019-20 charge and discussed updates. Key points include:

- COVID-19 has made issues of "haves" and "have nots" more apparent, in particular for the access to and use of information. There are disparities in access to (and affordability of) technological tools and broadband internet. Some of these same broadband issues apply to health care providers.
- There are many technological developments underway, such as a rapid uptake of IT in the cloud. There is a need to monitor changes in information technology and consider how these will impact and disrupt healthcare, workforce, and consumer use.
- Members suggested that we refine the charge to focus on key items to address this year, articulate what we plan to do and, as other issues arise, assess the need to address them based on how they align with the charge.

MDH staff will revise the charge based on suggestions in this meeting and route to members/alternates for review and comment.

## Conference update

The MN HIMSS and Minnesota e-Health Conference is scheduled for a virtual event on December 2, 2020. Keynotes include Cris Ross from Mayo Clinic and Archelle Georgiou from Starkey Hearing and the UMN Medical Industry Leadership Institute.

- Call for proposals was re-opened (due Sep 25) in order to be responsive to the current situation and be sure we are addressing cutting edge of issues.
- The conference committee is actively seeing sponsors and encourages Committee members to forward any leads to [mn.ehealth@state.mn.us](mailto:mn.ehealth@state.mn.us).
- Conference info is at <https://mngts.org/e-health/>

## MDH and COVID-19 response updates

Karen Soderberg updated the committee on the status of ADT onboarding with Minnesota's hospitals, used to support COVID-19 syndromic surveillance. All but 13 hospitals are onboarded, with continued outreach to the remaining. Some are held up due to EHR transitions, some do not hospitalize COVID patients

Karen provided overview of event alerts for care coordination and new use for ADTs for syndromic surveillance

Jennifer Fritz provided update on the MDH public health reporting, specifically the implementation of electronic lab reporting (ELR) and electronic case reporting (eCR). MDH is working quickly to improve the data flow and quality, which faces a number of challenges. Key points include:

- Many of the larger testing labs are using ELR and submitting data to MDH using HL7. But many other labs don't have this capability. There will be a very large increase in testing this fall, including more variation in the way labs submit data to MDH.
- Nursing homes are now testing residents and staff and are onboarding to report data to MDH. These facilities will not use ELR, but MDH is working with the long-term care community to establish secure, standardized reporting methods.
- Increases in testing result in increased case investigation, which is greatly supported by eCR because more demographic and clinical data are available to the case investigator. Most states are just starting to implement eCR; MDH had been planning on this prior to COVID and is prepared to implement.
- MDH has connected to the national AIMS platform, which will allow MDH to receive test data from other states.
- Current efforts focus on COVID-19 but will also provide the infrastructure to support other reportable conditions.

## Governance implementation

Anne Schloegel reported that the next steps for implementing the Minnesota connected networks governance are to build on hospital COVID-19 event alerting and the ELR/eCR implementation efforts. In fall/winter of 2020 we expect to establish and implement a pilot governance model and decision-making process. At the same time we will examine data flows related to the COVID-19 response to identify how data collection and exchange processes can be streamlined electronically including but not limited to data characteristics, uses, gaps, and opportunities. Later in 2021 we expect to expand the governance model to meet ongoing needs for COVID-19 response, as well as for the broader HIE needs for the state of Minnesota. The scope of work is drafted; MDH is waiting on some grant funding to support this work.

## Health system data collaboration

Karen Soderberg provided information on a new collaboration among Minnesota's health systems. The Minnesota EHR Consortium is a new collaboration of health systems to share data from electronic health record systems using a distributed data network model to inform Minnesota's response to COVID-19 and eventually expand to other public health and research efforts. The Consortium is working with MDH, ICSI, MNMCM, and Stratis Health to continue to refine the model and increase data contributors to better represent the full population of the state.

## Wrap up

- MDH will send a follow-up e-mail with a revised charge to solicit further input.
- Members and alternates are encouraged to spread the word about sponsorship opportunities for the MN HIMSS and Minnesota e-Health Conference
- Next meetings:
  - **November 19, 2020**, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Advisory Committee Meeting, <https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/ehealth/advcommittee/index.html>
  - **December 2, 2020** MN HIMSS and Minnesota e-Health Conference, <https://mngts.org/e-health/>

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.