WISHIN BOARD MEETING
April 27, 2011
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Wisconsin Medical Society

13 MEMBERS PRESENT
Susan Turney, M.D. (Chair)
Chris Queram
Julie Bartels
Steve Brenton
Henry Anderson, M.D.
Patti Brennan
Jane Cooper
Brett Davis
Sheila Jenkins
Dianne Kiehl
Ken Letkeman
Chuck Nason
Denise Webb

5 GUESTS PRESENT
Maria Alvarez-Stroud
Ed Meachen
Kim Pemble
Greg Simmons
Matthew Stanford

3 STAFF PRESENT
Joe Kachelski
Jean Doeringsfeld
Kim Drone

2 MEMBERS ABSENT
John Foley
Craig Samitt, M.D.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Susan Turney, M.D., called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2011 Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ARRA BROADBAND PRESENTATION

Ms. Alvarez-Stroud from the UW Extension and Mr. Meachen from the UW System gave a presentation on efforts to increase access to broadband service in Wisconsin.

Ms. Alvarez-Stroud said Wisconsin has received two ARRA grants to help improve broadband infrastructure -- a $42.7-million Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) grant and a $3.2-million Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA) grant. Five communities that showed interest were selected. Superior, Wausau, Chippewa Valley, Platteville are participating in the infrastructure area, and Menomonie Nation is participating in the educational area.

Mr. Meachen said community area networks (CANs) in mid-sized communities are an effective way to provide low-cost, high-speed bandwidth. He said WiscNet operates the Boreas Research and Education Network that connects to Minneapolis, Iowa City, Kansas City, Ames and Chicago. There is also a network from Eau Claire to Superior, Madison to Platteville, and Wausau to Stevens Point.

Merit, which is the education and research network in Michigan, also received an ARRA grant that connects the 10GB backbone that will connect to Green Bay, which builds redundancy.

He said WiscNet as a not-for-profit cooperative can serve all the hospitals and medical centers as customers. They also are a private provider with PCI fiber and can provide broadband backbone services to communities along those routes.

Mr. Meachan said SUcan is an internet, research and education 100GB network that received an ARRA grant. Wisconsin is in line to be allowed to use this backbone. This would allow the UW Extension to move the traffic from the current network onto the 100GB backbone.

Ms. Alvarez-Stroud said the UW Extension is waiting for the FoNSI ["Finding of No Significant (Environmental) Impact"], which is the last step before fiber installation begins. Educators have been hired in the five communities, and will conduct workshops, webinars, videos with Wisconsin Public Television and virtual inventor clubs. The goal for the grant is to add 2,300 subscribers.

Ms. Webb said WISHIN's Strategic and Operational Plan (SOP) contemplated the state HIE program working with grantees regarding receiving broadband grants to support healthcare providers and hospitals seeking to fully use HIE services. Ms. Alvarez-Stroud said the model in the Chippewa Valley has members in community hospitals.

Mr. Meachen said the "middle mile" is being built between Superior and Eau Claire with several places to exit. A private-sector provider's own fiber would need to be used to access the backbone. Many healthcare providers are members of WiscNet, and have unlimited bandwidth for a single subscription fee. Unlike other providers, the cost to use WiscNet is not based on bandwidth used; it is based on the type and size of institution.

Mr. Kachelski said WISHIN ultimately will be operating a query and response system, and working with images. Therefore, it may not be practical for organizations to participate in WISHIN if they don't have broadband access. Ms. Alvarez-Stroud said in order for more remote communities to connect, they must connect through a local provider and that dictates their bandwidth. Mr. Meachen said the problem with transmitting images is the private providers can't provision that type of broadband.

Ms. Brennan asked if there is a long-term funding plan for this. Mr. Meachen said WiscNet has a cooperative business model, and each member pays a $5,000 yearly fee, including an additional fee based on the size and type of the institution.

WISHIN OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Mr. Kachelski introduced Ms. Doeringsfeld as WISHIN's new Project Director, and mentioned that Kim Johnston will soon join WISHIN as the new Communications and Marketing Coordinator, and Aelisha Binderim as the Outreach Specialist.

The Policy, Communications, and Technical Advisory Committees have been established, and will be working with charters and work plans.

He said that Ms. Doeringsfeld and Mr. Pemble attended ONC's Direct "Boot Camp." ONC sees Direct as foundational for a more robust HIE in the future. Direct needs one or more Health Information Service Providers (HISPs) to function. The HISP will have a certificate authority function and issue Direct addresses. WHIE will seek proposals for HISP vendor services.

Ms. Doeringsfeld gave a high-level overview of Direct. She said Direct is a set of standards and services that enable exchange between known participants. The first part is the Direct address, which is encrypted email. The second part is security and trust services, which is the certificate authority that verifies user identity and security on both ends. The digital certificate for senders and receivers is required for Direct to work. The third part is the message, which is an email message with or without

attachments. The fourth part is the transport and delivery. Direct uses simple mail transport protocol (SMTP), which is typical of email systems.

Ms. Brennan said many institutions have secure messaging already. She asked if users would be able to send a Direct message through their current email. Ms. Doeringsfeld said as long as the email system can encrypt the message, a separate system isn't needed.

Mr. Kachelski said an RFP for HISP vendor services will be issued with a live date goal of September 6, 2011. WISHIN would like to enable providers to meet HIE criteria for Stage 1 Meaningful Use incentive payments before the end of Federal Fiscal Year 2011 on September 30.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Stanford provided an update on the Policy Advisory Committee.

Mr. Kachelski said the Board was provided a recommendation on the approach to consent management. The WIRED for Health Board had created an original recommendation for consent management for an opt-out policy, but came to the conclusion it would be impractical, and their focus was changed to a HIPAA harmonization approach.

It is recommended to pursue legislation that harmonizes Wisconsin law with federal HIPAA law for sharing patient information for treatment and operations. Wisconsin's mental health exception, which stands in the way of sharing certain types of mental health information without consent would no longer exist.

Ms. Brennan said the issue of harmonizing with HIPAA is an important goal to pursue, but it isn't the only option to consider. She asked for clarification as to what is actually being voted on. Mr. Stanford said an attachment of the Legal and Policy workplan was provided, which includes consent management. Legislation would need to be approved, and direction is needed from the Board regarding exploring the HIPAA harmonization plan.

Ms. Brennan said it sounds as if the recommendation reads that WISHIN will work to harmonize state and federal law, not just to explore that option. She also asked for additional information as to why the opt-out model wasn't feasible, and why the solution to harmonize with HIPAA is the best option.

Mr. Stanford said there is other work to focus on for consent and internal issues for WISHIN. Additional mechanisms need to be in place in order to protect patient privacy and confidentiality.

Ms. Brennan asked if the recommendation can be restated to say "endorse the committee's exploration of strategies to promote information sharing and patient privacy beyond the opt-out solution."

Mr. Kachelski summarized the discussion and suggested the following as a motion "the Board endorses the Policy Advisory Committee's exploration of alternatives to the opt-out model as articulated in the SOP to advance HIE and protect patient confidentiality and privacy."

It was moved and seconded to approve the recommendation for consent management. Motion carried unanimously with Ms. Webb, Mr. Davis and Dr. Anderson abstaining from voting.

EXTENDED BOARD MEETING

Mr. Kachelski said Ms. Bartels, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Brennan and Mr. Foley had volunteered to help plan the extended Board meeting on June 22. That group needs to focus on what should be accomplished at that meeting. A survey of the Board members will be completed in advance of that meeting.

ONC SITE VISIT

The Board members were provided a draft agenda for the Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) site visit. Mr. Kachelski said ONC Project Officers routinely meet with grantees annually. Wisconsin's site visit is scheduled for June 2 and 3 at Wisconsin Medical Society. He said Board members are encouraged to attend this meeting if they are able.

STATE HIT COORDINATOR UPDATE

Ms. Webb mentioned the Madison and Milwaukee Technical Colleges have graduated the first class of Health Information Technology students in the certificate program.

WHITEC UPDATE

Mr. Simmons stated that around 700 providers are signed up for WHITEC assistance (out of a goal of approximately 1,600). The first Wisconsin physician has now attested for Meaningful Use.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn.   Motion carried unanimously.