

PSTG Update – April 2008

This first quarter 2008 PSTG update provides information that we hope helps to meet your need for information on the Medicaid, Medicaid Management Information System, Medicaid Information Technology Architecture and the broader Health Information Exchange arena. This update focuses on the following topics:

- PSTG Technical Advisory Committee
- Health Information Exchange Committee
- MMIS Heritage and Future Directions Committee
- 2008 MMIS Conference
- A brief survey regarding your interests

This first quarter update concludes with a brief message from Kay Hallawell, Chairperson PSTG.

We would like to extend a welcome to our newest members. They are:

- Deneen Omer, CSG
- Steve Ruhnau, Hubbert Systems Consulting, Inc
- Bernard Jackson, Clemson University
- Bill Kowalski, Greystone Consumer Empowerment Systems

Technical Architecture Committee Update

The Technical Architecture Committee remains focused on the single purpose of fleshing out the MITA Technical Architecture. We have a set of deliverables that we intend to have made substantial progress on prior to the MMIS conference. Our primary focus at this point is to define the MITA technical functions. Technical functions are an English language description of the various functions needed in a MITA aligned Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) to support the business objectives outlined in the MITA business architecture. We expect these functions to number in the hundreds. In order to accomplish our tasks we have broken into 5 workgroups each having 5 to 8 participants. The workgroups are:

- Existing Technology Areas, Validate and Update – Ivan Handler, Lead
- SOA Best Practices - Manny Mkrichian, Lead
- Security and Privacy Standards – Patrick Fendt, Lead
- Interoperability Standards – Thea Hygh, Lead

- HL7 Standards – Bill McAuliffe, Lead

There are currently about 3 calls per week on average among the various workgroups.

An outline of our overall goals is:

- Draft of MITA technical architecture for recommendation to CMS.
- Proof of Concept implementation that uses HL7 / NMEH developed models and WSDL
- Board of advisors established for the TAC composed of industry technical leaders to review technical recommendations prior to submission to CMS
- At least one technical service recommended to connect to major external industry HIT initiative
- Recommendation and Proof of Concept for insuring that MITA service implementations are consistent/compliant with defined WSDL

Committee Chair – Dave Walsh (dwalsh@esrv.com)

Health Information Exchange Committee

The PSTG Health Information Exchange Committee will examine the public-private initiatives that are exchanging health clinical and administrative information to improve health outcomes and population health. The exchange of electronic health information underlies every current initiative for health care reform. The Secretary of Health and Human Services has approved adoption of Interoperability Standards harmonized by the Health Information Technology Standard Panel (HITSP). Additionally, the Commission on Certification of Health Information Technology (CCHIT) is in the process of certifying or finalizing criteria for Ambulatory, Inpatient/Emergency Room, and Enterprise Electronic Health Records, as well as Network/Health Information Criteria.

Most of the 27 State Medicaid agencies awarded \$150 million in Medicaid Transformation Grants since January 2007 are focusing on the exchange of health information to improve quality and cost effectiveness. In an effort to tackle the policy challenges, the National Governors Association Alliance for e-Health Communication and Data Exchange Taskforce developed recommendations for State Medicaid and other “publicly funded health programs [to improve health care quality] through participation in interoperable, electronic health information exchange initiatives.”

This committee will examine these and other health information technology efforts being lead by the Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology (ONC), and the American Health Information Community to determine how best to assist States clarifying the requirements and standards that must be included in Requests for Proposals to enable this capability in future MMIS's. We will identify the relevant standards and criteria necessary for HIE, and steps that Vendors and States may need to undertake in creating the public-private partnership that is critical for collaboration and innovation. Participants from the public and private sectors are welcome!

Committee Chair – M. René Bostick (rbostick@4TGinc.com)

MMIS Heritage and Future Directions Committee Update

The purpose of the MMIS Heritage and Future Directions Committee is to create a repository of private sector institutional knowledge about the systems that support the Medicaid Enterprise. This includes:

- Accumulate facts and figures
- Document origins and evolution
- Describe current status and issues
- Create repository of current initiatives and leading-edge technologies of interest to Medicaid
- Track and report on impact of external events, e.g., HIPAA, MITA, federal funding, changes in program, status of virtual and modular MMIS
- Compendium of Who Is Who and contact lists

One of the first objectives of the committee is to define core information for the repository and how to update it. This also includes determining structure and security, e.g., ACCESS database or other tools, such as a web browser model with web page and site map and who will have access. After 30 years there is a lot of information to examine and evaluate. Focus on current and future, but capture key elements of the past. Committee will develop a priority list and send to members for input. Outputs from repository can be developed in white papers, presentations at conferences, postings on PSTG.org, or newsletters. We could also use Listserve or a PSTG blog or Wiki site to collect information for the Repository and to develop papers, presentations.

The committee is seeking volunteers. We need a mix of more experienced and “new blood” with expertise in e-Commerce, SOA, system integration, and special products (e.g., data warehouse, fraud detection). If you are interested, please contact the MMIS Heritage and Future Directions Committee Chair.

Committee Chair – Susan Fox (*Susan.Fox@foxsys.com*)

MMIS Conference Update

Plans are well underway for this year’s conference being held at Opryland in Nashville on September 14-18. The conference committee appreciates everyone’s participation in the new proposal process for receptions. If your organization is considering a reception, it’s not too late to submit your idea. Exhibit booths are going fast, but there are a few left. Please see the Exhibitors section of the new MMIS Conference web site (mmisconference.org) to submit your exhibit information or proposals for sponsorship opportunities. The conference has made more sponsorship opportunities available this year at various funding levels including the golf tournament. Check them out! As you’re making plans for your events, some organizations have had difficulty getting responses from the Opryland staff. Please be patient, but contact NESCSO if you need assistance.

Content for the conference is a critical component and there have been more than 100 abstracts received. The deadline for abstract submission is now past due, but if you have a great idea and would like to submit an abstract please contact Nancy Peterson at 508-856-6425.

See you in Nashville!



What do you want from PSTG?

The PSTG Board of Directors is very interested in what our members want and need from the organization. We have developed some high level questions that we would like you to answer. These questions are:

- What do you need from PSTG?
- How could PSTG bring additional value to you?
- We are in the process of redesigning our website. What information would you like to see on the revised PSTG website?

We want to bring value to our members and would welcome your response to these questions. Please complete the survey by COB on Friday, May 2nd by copying the link below into your web browser. (Naturally, we always welcome your suggestions and you can contact any of the Board members by email.)

Survey link: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=SaNWlyjKRnGslI4F95ortQ_3d_3d

Richard Cain, Vice Chairperson (rjcain@deloitte.com)

Message from Kay

As we start another very active year, it's amazing to think that the first quarter has already gone by. I'm excited to be the Chairperson for PSTG this year and working with the new Board. We plan to provide periodic updates on the committee activities and solicit input from you on how PSTG can both involve your organization and keep you informed. Many of you are already active in various committee activities. I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to remind you to submit your 2008 dues (\$100.00 per organization) to: Tom Jewart, PSTG Treasurer at tom.jewart@eds.com., if you haven't done so already. Thank you for your continued participation and we look forward to a productive year.

Kay Hallawell, PSTG Chairperson (LeolaHallawell@firsthealth.com)