

PSTG Update – August 2008

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

- 2008 MMIS Conference
- PSTG Technical Advisory Committee
- Health Information Exchange Committee
- New PSTG Website

We would like to extend a welcome to our new and renewing members. Below are the companies and their representatives that have joined since the April Update:

- Accenture - Jeffrey Mullins
- Bearing Point, Inc. - Linda Stella
- Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, LLC - Timothy Masse
- Bull Services - Sharon Fahy
- Deloitte Consulting, LLP - Richard Cain
- EDS - Tom Jewart,
- First Data Government Solutions - Gwen Williams
- First Health Services Corp - Kay Hallawell
- Fox Systems - Bill Larkin
- Health Management Systems, Inc. - Joe Joy
- Ingenix - Michael Moore
- Noridian Administrative Services LLC (NAS) - Jeff Harmon
- Plexis Healthcare Systems, Inc. - David Goodwin
- Thomson Medstat - David Nelson

We believe that PSTG is a great opportunity for companies interested in understanding more about MITA and interested in active involvement with Technical policy in Medicaid. PSTG and its various committees

(Technical Architecture, Health Information Exchange, MMIS Heritage and Future Directions, and others) offer a pathway to connecting with technology leaders, other companies and partners, and CMS. Additionally, PSTG-related groups help companies understand MITA, educate the market on the pros and cons of technical policy choices, and set development direction for their companies.

This type of networking and community is not available through any other group. PSTG is an opportunity to get involved!

If you haven't yet joined for 2008, please do so by contacting Tom Jewart at tom.jewart@eds.com.

MMIS Conference Update

The 2008 Conference is only two weeks away. The conference planning committee has worked diligently to put together a packed agenda and provide an excellent opportunity for the private sector to interact with both state and federal representatives. The preliminary registration list is available to exhibitors by contacting NESCO. The planning committee asked us to extend its appreciation to all vendors for their cooperation with the reception planning changes for this year. Please continue to keep in mind state restrictions on gift acceptance as you plan giveaways and raffle prizes for the conference.

Please join us for the annual PSTG meeting at the conference on Monday, September 15, at 10:30 am. We will have an update from Rick Friedman, address our annual PSTG business, and once again break into work groups to support the various committees in setting their agenda for the coming year. More information about the committees is below. This is a great chance to meet others and help set the direction for 2009!

Technical Architecture Committee (TAC)

TAC Work Group Descriptions and Leads

The following is a brief description of the TAC workgroups and also lists the workgroup leaders.

1. Technical Services [Ivan Handler \(ivan.handler@illinois.gov\)](mailto:ivan.handler@illinois.gov)

The technical services work group is compiling a list of technical services that will be common to the modules and technical infrastructure needed to implement MITA-compliant business services. These services will be documented using a standard template.

They will be looking at services that are implemented as (standard) technologies that can be procured in the market, not technologies that would be custom coded. In particular, the template descriptions will contain the capabilities of these different technologies as they exist or as we understand they will evolve.

2. SOA Best Practices [Manny Mkrtichian \(Manny.Mkrtichian@foxsys.com\)](mailto:Manny.Mkrtichian@foxsys.com)

The Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) Best Practices work group is developing SOA best practices recommendations to assist CMS and State Medicaid programs in their transitioning toward SOA within the MITA framework. The group is researching SOA/MMIS/MITA/eHealth-related requirements and best-practices, such as SOA maturity models and roadmaps and developing vendor neutral

consensus on best practices in such areas as the impact of business and technical maturity on legacy to SOA transformation.

The SOA Best Practices work group will be collaborating with other TAC work group leads in compiling SOA best practices guidelines in their respective areas of work. The work group will also compile examples of documentation we are developing and demonstrate where they fit within the following SOA best practices areas within the MITA framework:

- SOA Maturity Models and Roadmaps
- SOA Governance Best Practices
 - “Big” governance best practices consensus recommendations to CMS. These may involve possible governance best practice in the development of standardized use case WSDLs, and possible independent third party verification process and certification of interoperability of the WSDLs.
 - “Small” governance involving business and technical governance best practices for state Medicaid programs to consider for SOA transformation
- SOA resourcing best practices
- SOA architectural best practices

3. Security & Privacy Standards [Patrick Fendt \(patrick.fendt@oracle.com\)](mailto:patrick.fendt@oracle.com)

The TAC Security and Privacy work group aims to define technical functions and technical services that facilitate consistent and standards-based implementations of the MITA framework - while adopting industry best-practices. The group will research MMIS/MITA/eHealth-related requirements and best-practices, and logically map these requirements to the MITA framework as well as to relevant industry standards. This work can then be used to come up with a recommend/suggested list of functions and services that would aid organizations in implementing a MITA v2+/v3 environment which is highly standards-based, interoperable, extensible, and relatively future-proof.

The ultimate goal is to enable new initiatives in the MITA and eHealth environment -- moving forward into the coming years -- to improve the effectiveness (and efficiency) of healthcare-related education, delivery, outcomes, tracking, billing, security/privacy, etc.

These services will be documented using a standard template also used by the Technical Services work group.

4. Interoperability Standards [Thea Hygh \(hygh@us.ibm.com\)](mailto:hygh@us.ibm.com)

The Interoperability Standards work group will identify/evaluate industry standards and technologies that achieve MITA goals through interoperability. The work group intends to document the relevance of these standards and technologies through application of the MITA Framework and through collaboration with authoritative sources for information. Deliverables produced by the work group may consist of a technology demonstration, best practices recommendations, use case examples, and/or technology adoption roadmaps.

5. Business Process & Work Flow Standards [Arvinder Singh \(arvinder.singh@cns-inc.com\)](mailto:arvinder.singh@cns-inc.com)

Business Process and Workflow Standards work group is working to document and elaborate on the different industry standards and specifications that are currently available in the workflow and business process management space. The work group intends to outline the applicability and relevance of these standards and how those interplay in the overall Medicaid enterprise. The work group intends to develop a framework guidance document that helps address the following

- Interplay of different workflow standards and their relevance in a heterogeneous environment of web services and non web services.
- Establish the intersection of human tasks with existing workflow standards.
- Develop an application framework for usage of these standards and topics in the Provider Enrollment business process.

6. HL7 Standards [Bill McAuliffe \(wmcauliffe@esrv.com\)](mailto:wmcauliffe@esrv.com)

The goal of the HL7 Standards work group is to catalogue and communicate health care IT initiatives and SDO work that should be leveraged, or at least considered, in MITA. Initiatives and SDOs include the ONC-coordinated HIT strategic plan, AHIC, HITSP, CCHIT, HL7 and CAQH.

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

Health Information Exchange Committee

The Health Information Committee continues to focus its activities on recent initiatives to improve the exchange of health related information. First, we are monitoring State Medicaid agencies use of Medicaid Transformation Grants to improve health care quality via electronic health information exchange. We are focusing on 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.

Second, we continue to examine these and other health information technology efforts being led 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. Again, participants from the public and private sectors are welcome!

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

New PSTG Web Site

Yes, we are getting a new updated web site. We hope to have it available by the MMIS Conference so you can check it out from the Conference Cyber Café. That would also be an excellent time to pay your dues for 2008 to Tom Jewart. He can be contacted at tom.jewart@eds.com. We hope you find the new web site informative and easy to use. Please provide us feedback and suggestions for improvement – this is your organization!

A very special thank you to Darren Steiner of FourThought Group for all his work on the new web site!

We look forward to seeing you at the MMIS Conference in Nashville!

Your 2008 PSTG Board of Directors:

<i>Kay Hallawell, Chairperson</i>	<u>LKHallawell@cvty.com</u>
<i>Richard Cain, Vice Chairperson</i>	<u>rjcain@deloitte.com</u>
<i>Tom Jewart, Treasurer</i>	<u>tom.jewart@eds.com</u>
<i>M. René Bostick, Secretary</i>	<u>rbostick@4TGinc.com</u>
<i>David Nelson, Past Chairperson</i>	<u>David.L.Nelson@thomsonreuters.com</u>