



About PSTG

*"The **Private Sector Technology Group (PSTG)** is a broad based group of information technology companies and professionals providing solutions in the health information systems environment. This group's talents and expertise ranges from system design consulting to program operations. PSTG is a resource for federal and state governments to obtain information regarding the application of information technologies to health services administration." **Charter of Private Sector Technology Group***

The Private Sector Technology Group was formed to provide an opportunity for the health information technology industry to interact and exchange ideas in an open and non-competitive environment. PSTG and its various committees (Technical Architecture, MMIS Heritage and Future Directions, and others) offer a forum for companies and industry professionals to connect with technology leaders, other companies and partners, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Additionally, PSTG-related groups assist CMS and States by exploring and providing guidance on industry-related issues.

This type of networking and community is not available through any other group, and your involvement is essential to our success. If you are not currently a member, now is the time to join. If you are a member, get involved!

2010 PSTG Board:

Deneen Omer, Chair

domer@csgdelivers.com

Gwen Williams, Vice-Chair

Gwen.Williams@firstdata.com

Sally Finger, Secretary

[sfingar@deloitte.com](mailto:sfinger@deloitte.com)

David Nelson, Treasurer

David.L.Nelson@thomsonreuters.com

Kay Hallawell, Immediate Past-Chair

kay.hallawell@molinahealthcare.com

Susan Fox, Heritage and Future Directions Chair

Susan.Fox@foxsys.com

Dave Walsh, Technical Architecture

Committee Chair

dwalsh@esrv.com

PSTG Membership

Membership to PSTG is open to a broad based group of information technology companies and professionals providing solutions in the Medicaid health information systems environment. Membership ranges from companies and professionals that provide system design, development, and implementation services to companies and professionals that provide advisory and strategic services.

Currently PSTG has more than 250 members representing a broad spectrum of companies. Any business or person interested in becoming a member, you can complete a membership application on our website at

<http://www.pstg.org/Members.html>. Annual membership dues are \$100. The PSTG members are being used by States and CMS as a list of vendors to contact for Request for Information, Request for Proposals, and vendor surveys.

Our New PSTG Web Site

PSTG is getting a new web site! This effort will take place over several steps in the upcoming months. Recently the New England States Consortium Systems Organization (NESCSO) agreed to host our web site, and this arrangement will allow additional flexibility and functionality for PSTG. We thank NESCSO for providing this service for PSTG!

Over the next few months, we will be publishing new information, including meeting schedules, meeting agendas, additional membership information, and group activities. We also plan to again offer online payment of PSTG dues. Please continue to check pstg.org for updates.

2010 MMIS Conference

Conference Update

This year's MMIS Conference is less than a month away!

The 2010 MMIS Conference being held at the Portland Oregon Conference Center. This year's conference theme is Making Medicaid Information Sustainable. PSTG is supporting the purchase of thumb drives for conference presentations which are made from a sustainable material.

Hotel rooms for the conference have become quite scarce, a good indication of conference participation. The Hilton is sold out. The Doubletree has a few government-rate rooms left, but they are also sold out of non-government rate rooms. If you are looking for an over-flow hotel, please contact Anita James (Anita.James@umassmed.edu).

For those vendors with booths at the conference, set-up time is scheduled for Sunday, August 15, from 10 am to 4 pm (registration begins at noon). Concession stands will be provided during booth set-up.

NESCO reports that they have been receiving a number of calls from vendors regarding how much they should spend on booth giveaways. Many States provide ethics guidelines to State employees which includes a dollar value on items which they may accept as gifts. There is a wide range on the exact dollar value, but a common amount is \$50. NESCSO cannot provide a specific dollar value for giveaways at the MMIS conference; however, they do encourage vendors to be mindful that items that have a specific value, such as gift certificates, may be more challenging for State attendees to accept. Their suggestion is to offer items that are useful as well as valued in an amount that is generally in line with State gift acceptance policies.

Please visit the MMIS conference web site (mmisconference.org) to view the latest and final agenda. Also, take this opportunity to join PSTG for 2010. Dues are only \$100, so bring your checkbook or you can contact Dave Nelson, PSTG Treasurer, to arrange for payment. We look forward to seeing you all in Portland - August 15th – 19th!

PSTG Meeting

All industry representatives are invited to join the PSTG conference session on Monday at 1:30 pm. We will begin with a short PSTG business meeting and continue with an informative and interactive conference session. Topics we plan to cover include:

- General industry overview: Dave Walsh, Dr. Robert Cothren, and Susan Fox will provide a general update on ARRA, HITECH, NHIN, and other healthcare reform initiatives.
- Panel discussion: CMS has reached out to PSTG to gain vendor ideas on how to increase competition in the MMIS marketplace. In order to solicit this information, we are planning a panel discussion on this topic. We will have short presentations by panel members and then open the topic up for general discussion. We anticipate this discussion and post-conference efforts resulting in a whitepaper of vendor ideas to submit to CMS. We encourage all vendors to participate in this discussion as a respondent from the audience. If you have a particular hot button regarding increasing competition, please contact Sally Fingar (sfingar@deloitte.com) to provide your name, topic, and email address.
- PSTG Committee updates: The meeting will wrap up with an overview of the various committees which continue to work on MITA initiatives and, of course, solicit additional vendor participation.

Please make plans to participate in this session - the PSTG needs your involvement and support to be able to continue our high-level of involvement with the MMIS market and emerging initiatives and technologies.

PSTG Subcommittee Reports

Heritage and Future Directions:

2010 is a year of major transitions. Key Medicaid vendors have undergone significant change in ownership: ACS//Xerox, EDS//Hewlett-Packard, Unisys//Molina, and several others. At the same time, federal mandates such as HITECH and PPACA, as well as evolving MITA Initiative, have created major opportunities and challenges for PSTG vendors. Therefore, this year we are shifting the focus to Future Directions. This includes understanding the federal, state, and local legislation and mandates that are transforming the environment of interest to PSTG vendors. We will provide updates on the key committees, government agencies, standard making organizations, and private sector initiatives that PSTG vendors need to understand. There are new players and

new competitors. Our objective is to provide useful information to PSTG members so they are better able to address the changing marketplace and the new opportunities.

Technical Architecture Committee (TAC):

Health reform promises access to quality healthcare for citizens that have previously not been able to obtain or afford it. There is no question that the goal of universally obtainable quality healthcare for all citizens is noble. Achieving this goal will present the healthcare community with monumental challenges, and the Medicaid community will probably be faced with the most. This is because it is expected that a significant share of the new beneficiaries will enroll in Medicaid, and Medicaid will also be charged with overseeing the EHR incentive payments to participating Medicaid providers. In some cases, Medicaid has had problems enrolling enough quality providers into their program, and this problem will be amplified as the patient to provider ratio swells. Medicaid also faces new Federal mandates that need to be met such as X12 Version 5010 and ICD 10. Ultimately, these mandates will allow us to provide better healthcare outcomes; but for now, they just look like more challenges even in the best of economic times.

Simply put, Medicaid will be asked to provide more services for less money in the coming years. MITA promises to be the foundation for providing more for less. MITA is an opportunity, a potential “silver bullet”, for the challenges that face State Medicaid.

MITA is intended to be a progressive component-based framework that will evolve to meet the changing needs of healthcare. It is also intended to readily embrace emerging technology and standards to best serve the Medicaid community.

In recent months, the TAC has made substantial progress in defining the MITA technical architecture. Our goal is simple – define and recommend to CMS a technical framework upon which the Medicaid community can build MMIS solutions. This framework must also support the initiatives that constitute Health Reform.

Health Reform solutions must be built in a sustainable manner. Funding for these activities will not last forever; and when the dust settles in a few years, we will need to fold these services into a maintainable, cost effective, funding stream process, much like the traditional Medicaid APD process.

With this in mind, the TAC reviewed various Federal mandates including the recent Health Reform legislation, HITECH, and the Final Rule as well as various industry initiatives such as the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN), HIE's, HL7, OASIS, and others. Leveraging industry initiatives, we are focusing on defining the MITA technical services that are needed to support traditional MMIS processes as well as these new Federal mandates.

The TAC believes that in order to truly understand the details of what needs to be addressed in a solution you must implement a real solution – walk the walk instead of just talking the talk. The TAC is a community in which multiple vendors and states collaborate to identify the requirements and define the common interfaces to a solution set. TAC participants innovate and compete based on their particular value add.

As in previous years, this year's MMIS conference will serve as the unveiling of the TAC's efforts. New this year is an Interoperability Showcase which will be located adjacent to the Cyber Café and will be staffed during exhibit hours. With a particular focus on how MITA can support Health Reform, the showcase will consist of composite vendor demonstrations that have been developed to show several Service Oriented Architectures (SOAs) orchestrating services to accomplish the following:

- CAQH CORE compliant MITA inquire member eligibility service (ME06)
- CAQH CORE compliant MITA authorize service (OM02)
- NHIN integration with administrative transactions
- NHIN integration with clinical data exchange
- Provider repository exchange service (CAQH UPD)
- National level repository (NLR) vision
- MITA integration with a leading practice management system
- HIE integration
- Authentication
- Authorization
- Audit trails

We hope you will find time in your MMIS Conference schedule to visit the TAC participants in the Interoperability Showcase. We appreciate the opportunity to share the vision and to take your insights into consideration for future TAC efforts. We look forward to speaking with you in Portland!

The TAC welcomes participation from all states, vendors and individuals. Please let us know of your interest, especially if you would be interested in helping to define and deploy services that are consistent with the goals of the TAC. Please contact Dave Walsh at dwalsh@esrv.com, Kimberly Ellison-Taylor at kimberly.ellison-taylor@oracle.com or Julie Walsh at julie.walsh@molinahealthcare.com.

An all-TAC member meeting and six TAC workgroups meet following the schedule below:

Overall TAC Meeting (Bi-weekly; To review accomplishments and next steps)

Third Quarter 2010 – All meetings at 4:00 PM (eastern)

July – 14th and 28th

August – 11th and 25th

September – 8th and 22nd

Contact Dave Walsh @ dwalsh@esrv.com to get more information.

Technical Services Workgroup - The Technical Services Workgroup continues to build from technical services produced for the 2009 MMIS Conference - MITA Gateway 5010 Project. Those technical services included the CORE connectivity and X12\XML adapter services which currently operate as the foundational services for this year's additional technical functionality. Continuing to use the Inquire Member Eligibility (IME) business services as a testing ground, this year's additional technical services will include audit logging, authentication, and authorization capabilities. This workgroup is also responsible for documenting the technical service artifacts that are presented to the TARB for standards approval.

Third Quarter 2010 – All meetings every Friday at 11:00 AM (eastern)

July – 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th

August – 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th

September – 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th

Contact Dale Posont @ dposont@csgdelivers.com to get more information.

Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) Best Practices Workgroup - Continuing to develop best practice guidance with a focus on Service Management, the goal being to guarantee the requisite reliability, accountability, and quality of services in a SOA environment; to include deployment, monitoring and elements of configuration management. The SOA Best Practices Workgroup will take the accomplishments of the other TAC workgroups and demonstrate how those artifacts can be used in a comprehensive SOA environment. SOA governance, quality of service (QOS) and service lifecycle / versioning will all be addressed in the SOA Best Practices workgroup.

Third Quarter 2010 – All meetings at 3:00PM EST

July – 7th and 21st

August – 4th

September – 1st, 15th, and 29th

Contact Joe Crisp @ joe.crisp@noridian.com to get more information.

Security and Privacy Standards Workgroup -The Security workgroup will advise as to what security standards apply and provide detailed specifications for the implementation of these standards including specific examples. We will also provide Security and Privacy best practice guidance, as well as information relating to Federal, State and local compliance mandates. Finally, we will provide security-related assistance for the MMIS conference demo.

Third Quarter 2010 – All meetings at 11:30 AM (eastern)

July – 9th and 23rd

August – 6th and 20th

September – 3rd and 17th

Contact Patrick Fendt @ Patrick.fendt@oracle.com to get more information.

Interoperability Standards Workgroup (This workgroup will continue to provide guidance to ensure that service implementations for the MITA business function are WS-I compliant.)

Third Quarter 2010 – All meetings at 3:00 PM (eastern)

July – 19th

August – 2nd, 16th, and 30th

September – 7th and 21st

Contact Thea Hygh @ hygh@us.ibm.com to get more information.

Business Process and Workflow Standards Workgroup - The business process work group focus is continued exploration of addressing the utilization of standards like BPMN, BPEL in the life cycle of business process management. The workgroup intends to publish best practices in this area. The group, if time and resource permitting will document reference models for one or two example business process.

Third Quarter 2010 – All meetings at 3:00 PM (eastern)

July – 15th

August – none

September – 16th

Contact Arvinder Singh @ Arvinder.singh@cns-inc.com for more information.

Healthcare Standards Workgroup - The goal of the healthcare 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, NHIN, AHIC, HITSP, CCHIT, HL7 and CAQH. Activities currently combined with both the Security and Privacy and Technical Services subcommittees identifying and leveraging standards related to Authentication, Authorization, Auditing, and standards for supporting for long-running transactions to be incorporated into the 2010 MMIS TAC Demo and subsequent submissions to the MITA TARB.

Third Quarter 2010 – All meetings at 11:00 AM (eastern)

July – 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th

August – 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th

September – 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th

Contact Bill McAuliffe @ wmcauliffe@esrv.com for more information.

MITA Consistency – Bill Branch - Ultimately, the work of the TAC will need to become a part of the MITA framework. This group is responsible for insuring that the artifacts that are produced as a result of this project are consistent with the goals and standards of MITA.