



PAeHI NEWS
Moving Healthcare Forward

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#) | [ONLINE RESOURCES](#)

Chairman's Message
Martin Ciccocioppo
Pennsylvania eHealth Initiative



Dear Friends:

With Summer fast approaching, it's time now to provide updates on what has occurred this Spring, including HITECH developments, events and other happenings, new HIT-related regulations, legislation and resources and much more. These are truly exciting times to be engaged in health information technology - from any perspective. We encourage you to stay informed, stay involved and thank you for your continued support of PAeHI...

Privacy & Security White Paper - It's Here!

"Ensuring Privacy and Security of Health Information Exchange in Pennsylvania" was published on March 29, 2009, and is now available - in both Executive Summary and full, unabridged formats - online at www.PAeHI.org. An abbreviated version of the paper was also published on March 28 in the Healthcare Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Journal of Health Information Management (JHIM). [FULL ARTICLE](#)

Strategic Plan

On January 15 and 16, PAeHI held a strategic planning retreat at The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania's headquarters in Harrisburg. [FULL ARTICLE](#)

PAeHI HIT Summit

On May 4th in Harrisburg, PAeHI hosted its second statewide HIT event, a "Health Information Technology Summit - HIT: It's a Team Sport!". Plenary sessions for the day included: Telehealth, Health Information Exchange, and the Medical Home/Chronic Care. [FULL ARTICLE](#)

Next All-Committee Meeting

Due to the PAeHI Health Information Technology Summit on May 4, 2009, there was no All-Committee Meeting held in the second quarter of this year. All-Committee Meetings will resume on **Wednesday, August 26, 2009** at the Pennsylvania Medical Society's headquarters in Harrisburg. [FULL ARTICLE](#)

GUEST ARTICLE

Pennsylvania Department of Health and PAeHI Partner to Expand Interoperability of and Participation in Statewide Immunization Registry

The PA DoH is represented on the PAeHI Board by Robert Torres, Esq., Deputy Secretary for Administration

[READ MORE](#)

STATE OUTLOOK/NEWS

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[READ MORE](#)

PatientAccess.org

Unveils Petition Drive
Keep Hospitals Healthy!

[READ MORE](#)

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[READ MORE](#)

FEDERAL OUTLOOK/NEWS

BREAKING NEWS!

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[READ MORE](#)

ONC Releases Operating Plan for Stimulus Health IT Provisions

[READ MORE](#)

Operating Plan Details

[READ MORE](#)

New HHS Healthcare Reform Office Announced

[READ MORE](#)

Policy and Standards Committees Members Named, Met

[READ MORE](#)

ICD-10

[READ MORE](#)

The Red Flags Rule

[READ MORE](#)

NATIONAL NEWS ROUND-UP

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[READ MORE](#)

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[READ MORE](#)

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[READ MORE](#)

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The state of electronic immunization registry systems across the country was a major topic discussed at the PAeHI All-Committee Meeting in October 2008. [FULL ARTICLE](#)

It's Official! PAeHI Has A New Office

On Monday, May 11th PAeHI officially opened its new office at the HAP headquarters building in Harrisburg. [FULL ARTICLE](#)

Thanks for all you do to help *Move Healthcare Forward* in Pennsylvania ...

Take care,

Martin

Martin J. Ciccocioppo
PAeHI Board Chairman and
Vice President, Research, The Hospital & Healthsystem
Association of Pennsylvania
phone: (717) 561-5363
email: martinc@haponline.org

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PAeHI BOARD AND
MEMBER NEWS
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PAeHI WELCOMES NEW
MEMBERS!
[READ MORE](#)

MEMBER PROFILE
*ADVANCE for Health
Information Executives*
[READ MORE](#)

SUMMIT EVENT PHOTOS
[SEE PHOTOS](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR
[READ MORE](#)

UPCOMING PROGRAM
Open Letter from Joe Tracy,
Vice President Telehealth
Services, Lehigh Valley
Health Network
[READ MORE](#)

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

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Privacy & Security White Paper - It's Here!

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Strategic Plan

On January 15 and 16, PAeHI held a strategic planning retreat at The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania's headquarters in Harrisburg. We were fortunate to have had nearly fifty leading healthcare stakeholders from across the state join us in a process which lead to the development of a strategic plan around three strategic and tactical themes for PAeHI as it moves forward: Leadership Forum, Balanced Scorecard

(Best Practices and Reporting Metrics) and Communications/Education. That draft plan, with additional feedback from stakeholders, is now set to be presented to the PAeHI Board for approval, after which work on a complimentary Operational Plan which will begin and is to include tactical measures designed to achieve PAeHI's approved strategic goals. This Operational Plan is set to be in place by the start of PAeHI's new Membership year which begins July 1, 2009.

PAeHI HIT Summit

On May 4th in Harrisburg, PAeHI hosted its second statewide HIT event, a "Health Information Technology Summit - HIT: It's a Team Sport!" Plenary sessions for the day included: Telehealth, Health Information Exchange, and the Medical Home/Chronic Care. Keynote speakers included the Honorable Daniel Mongiardo, MD, Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky. In addition to the Summit, and working in concert with the two PA HIMSS chapters, along with dozens of other sponsors and co-sponsoring organizations from across Pennsylvania, PAeHI also co-hosted a *Solutions Showcase* at the Capitol along with a reception, which featured displays of HIT being used by healthcare providers and payers across Pennsylvania. These events were followed on Tuesday, May 5th by the second annual PA HIMSS Healthcare IT Advocacy and Awareness Day. Both the Summit and Advocacy Day events were to be held at the Crowne Plaza in downtown Harrisburg, and both events exceeded attendance and fundraising expectations, with 275 Summit attendees and 123 Advocacy Day attendees (a 65% increase from last year). Many thanks and congratulations to PA HIMSS, the co-chairs and members of the event planning committee, all sponsors, volunteers and attendees for three excellent events! ([Click here](#) to see additional Event photos.)

May 4, 2009

PAeHI Healthcare Information Technology Summit: "It's a Team Sport" Harrisburg, PA



Mark Stevens, PAeHI Executive Director and event MC welcomes a capacity crowd of 275 participants to PAeHI's second statewide HIT Summit



Event Keynote speaker, **Kentucky Lt. Governor, Dr. Daniel Mongiardo**, addressing participants on the importance of timely healthcare reform.



Dr. Jason Mitchell, Assistant Director at the Center for Health Information Technology and facilitator for the Medical Home / Chronic Care Panel.



At his luncheon address, **Dr. Carey Vinson** provided an update on **Highmark's** HIT initiatives.



Joe Tracy, MS, Vice President of TeleHealth Services, Lehigh Valley Hospital and facilitator for the panel on Telemedicine.



Participants react to the panel on Health Information Exchange chaired by **Vanderbilt University's Dr. Mark Frisse**.

Planning for next year's event has already begun. For information on how to get involved as a sponsor or volunteer, please contact event coordinator Mark Stevens at markwstevens@verizon.net.

Next All-Committee Meeting

Due to the PAeHI Health Information Technology Summit on May 4, 2009, there was no All-Committee Meeting held in the second quarter of this year. All-Committee Meetings will resume on **Wednesday, August 26, 2009** at the Pennsylvania Medical Society's headquarters in Harrisburg. A Save the Date for the event will be E-mailed separately to members later this summer.

PAeHI and Electronic Immunization Registry Information Exchange

The state of electronic immunization registry systems across the country was a major topic discussed at the PAeHI All-Committee Meeting in October 2008. In January 2009, leaders of PAeHI met with PA Secretary of Health, Everette James, to discuss ways the State could increase reporting and utilization of the Pennsylvania State Immunization Information System (PA-SIIS), as well as allow immunization registry data to be shared with New Jersey and eventually with other mid-Atlantic states. There has been much progress since October on those initiatives, including discussions with AHIMA to support broadening the electronic exchange of immunization registry data region wide. For more information, please reference this issue's "Guest Article" submitted by the PA Department of Health.

It's Official! PAeHI Has A New Office

On Monday, May 11th PAeHI officially opened its new office at the HAP headquarters building in Harrisburg. Our new mailing address is:

4750 Lindle Road, Room 228
Harrisburg, PA 17111

PAeHI's Executive Director Mark Stevens' new phone and fax numbers (Mark's e-mail address will remain the same, markwstevens@verizon.net) are:

(717) 561.5338
(717) 561.5216 fax

Thanks for all you do to continue to help *Move Healthcare Forward in Pennsylvania...*

Take care,

Martin

Martin J. Ciccocioppo
PAeHI Board Chairman and
Vice President, Research, The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania
phone: (717) 561-5363
email: martinc@haponline.org

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[Moving Healthcare Forward](#) • [Moving Healthcare Forward](#) • [Moving Healthcare Forward](#)

GUEST ARTICLE

Pennsylvania Department of Health (DoH)

*- The PA DoH is represented on the PAeHI Board
by Robert Torres, Esq., Deputy Secretary for Administration*

Pennsylvania Department of Health and PAeHI Partner to Expand Interoperability of and Participation in Statewide Immunization Registry

The Pennsylvania eHealth Initiative (PAeHI) has been working with the Pennsylvania Department of Health to support increased participation in the Department's immunization registry, the Pennsylvania Statewide Immunization Information System (PA-SIIS). PAeHI has also acted as a neutral convener of interested stakeholders to promote progress in the development of real-time interfaces between electronic medical record systems and the PA-SIIS.

On May 13, 2009, PAeHI convened the second meeting of various stakeholders to support this effort. At the meeting, the Pennsylvania Department of Health announced the successful implementation of a real-time bi-directional HL7 interface between Office Practicum and the PA-SIIS. This project created interoperability between Office Practicum's Electronic Health Record (EHR) and the PA-SIIS. The interface allows a provider to search the PA-SIIS for a patient record and displays the information through a split screen comparing immunizations recorded in PA-SIIS with immunizations documented in the EHR. The end user has the ability to accept immunization information from PA-SIIS and merge the data into the EHR record. They can then continue documenting additional immunizations through the EHR and transfer the updated to the PA-SIIS for final processing.

Participants at the meeting were pleased with the Department's progress in implementing the interface. They especially appreciated the consideration given to practice workflow; efficiency of obtaining information from the PA-SIIS; and with conventions used for security and communication between the EHR and the PA-SIIS.

As a result of these efforts, two major EHR vendors (Allscripts and EPIC) have made commitments to assess the development of interfaces within their current products for Pennsylvania customers. Conversations with additional product/service vendors are underway.

For further information about the Department's efforts with the PA-SIIS, please contact Frank Caniglia, RHIA at the Department of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research at 717-783-2548 or ccaniglia@state.pa.us.

[Moving Healthcare Forward](#) • [Moving Healthcare Forward](#) • [Moving Healthcare Forward](#)

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

STATE OUTLOOK/NEWS

State Senate Budget Plan would Eliminate PHIX Funding

On Monday, May 4th Senate GOP leaders unveiled their \$27.3 billion budget proposal, which threatens to eliminate funding for the Governor's Office of HealthCare Reform (OHCR) and the Pennsylvania Health Information Exchange (PHIX). See reaction from OHCR at <http://www.OHCR.pa.state.us/>.

PatientAccess.org Unveils Petition Drive KEEP HOSPITALS HEALTHY!

Tell Pennsylvania lawmakers to restore proposed hospital payment and cuts to ensure access to healthcare in your community. Email your lawmaker at www.patientaccess.org and sign the petition at <http://www.petitiononline.com/2HAP2009/petition.html>

Four new providers join Keystone Health Information ExchangeSM

Digital network helps provide faster, more efficient patient care

DANVILLE, PA - One of Pennsylvania's largest health information sharing organizations - the Keystone Health Information Exchange (KeyHIE) - announced recently that four regional healthcare providers have become participants: Presbyterian Senior Living, Dillsburg; Schuylkill Health System, Pottsville; Community Medical Center Healthcare System, Scranton; and SUN Home Health and Hospice, Northumberland.

The exchange is a secure network that links hospitals and other healthcare providers throughout Pennsylvania and provides seamless and secure access to health information - including diagnoses, test results, allergies and medication lists.

Bloomsburg Hospital, Geisinger Medical Center and Shamokin Area Community Hospital were among the exchange's first active users. KeyHIE formed in 2005 with the vision to improve healthcare quality and efficiency through the increased use of digital health records. "The addition of these four new providers increases the size of the exchange to make it one of the largest health information sharing organizations in Pennsylvania," said James Walker, M.D., Geisinger's Chief Health Information Officer. "Sharing information in the exchange helps each hospital and healthcare provider deliver more efficient, timely patient care."

- from www.KeyHIE.org

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[Moving Healthcare Forward](#) • [Moving Healthcare Forward](#) • [Moving Healthcare Forward](#)

FEDERAL OUTLOOK/NEWS

BREAKING NEWS!

MAY 27th - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology Issues Request for Comments on proposed Health Information Technology Extension Program



An HHS online notice announced the draft description of the program for establishing regional centers to assist providers seeking to adopt and become meaningful users of health information technology, as required under Section 3012(c) of the Public Health Service Act, as added by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Pub. L. No. 111-5)(ARRA). A printed version of the Notice is to appear in the May 28th Federal Register.

All comments on the draft Plan should be received no later than 5 p.m. on June 11, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
200 Independence Ave, SW, Suite 729D, Washington, DC 20201
Phone: 202-690-7151
Email: onc.request@hhs.gov

Visit Health and Human Services Department Notices at <http://www.federalregister.gov/inspection.aspx>.

ONC Releases Operating Plan for Stimulus Health IT Provisions

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT has released to Congress an operating plan for implementing the health IT provisions included in the federal stimulus package, [Health Data Management](#) reports.

"This operating plan outlines immediate actions to meet statutory requirements and to begin the huge task ahead," the eight-page document notes. According to the plan, ONC will hold hearings and meetings over the next several weeks to develop and evaluate plans and procedures (Goedert, *Health Data Management*, 5/18).

In the plan, National Coordinator for Health IT David Blumenthal said he knows ONC must

"act swiftly but thoughtfully" (Mosquera, [Government Health IT](#), 5/18).

Operating Plan Details

The operating plan details 19 upcoming regulations, guidance, reports and studies regarding enhanced privacy and security rules, as well as their deadlines under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The plan also cites six tasks and their due dates for heightened enforcement of the enhanced HIPAA privacy and security rules.

In addition, the plan lays out steps for:

- Defining "meaningful use" of an electronic health record;
- Contracting for technical standards analysis services with the National Institute of Standards and Technology;
- Adoption of initial standards, implementation specifications and certification criteria;
- Updating the federal health IT strategic plan; and
- Communicating with the public (*Health Data Management*, 5/18).

The plan also includes timetables for certain measures.

** Editor's Note: The plan also asserts that it is ONC's intent to have an RFP regarding funding for Regional HIT Extension Centers released imminently, and for funds to be awarded in the fourth quarter of 2009 and made available in the first quarter of 2010.*

- from *iHealthBeat*, May 19, 2009

New HHS Healthcare Reform Office Announced

On Monday, May 11th, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius announced the establishment of the [Department of Health and Human Services' \(HHS\) Office of Health Reform](#). Led by Jeanne Lambrew, PhD, this office will work closely with Nancy-Ann DeParle and the White House Office of Health Reform. Secretary Sebelius stated that, "The HHS Office of Health Reform and the White House Office of Health Reform will work in tandem to advance legislation and take immediate actions to cut costs, assure quality and affordable healthcare for all Americans, and guarantee Americans can choose their doctor and their health plan." Key staff members appointed to the HHS Office of Health Reform include: Michael Hash and Neera Tanden as Senior Advisors; Linda Douglass as Director of Communications; Meena Seshamani, MD, PhD, as Director of Policy Analysis; Caya B. Lewis, MPH, as Director of Outreach and Public Health Policy; Jennifer Cannistra as Policy Analyst and Director of Special Projects; Karen Richardson as Outreach Coordinator; and Michael Halle as a Special Assistant.

- from *HIMSS News*

Policy and Standard's Committees Members Named, Met

The [HIT Policy Committee](#) inaugural meeting was held on Monday, May 11th. National Coordinator for Health IT Dr. David Blumenthal opened the discussion with the statement that the mandate from Congress and the President are clear - 1) protect privacy and promote security of personal health information and 2) get providers to adopt EHRs.

Dr. Blumenthal talked about the need for priorities and thanked Congress for helping to establish the priorities by providing required dates for certain activities and for identifying specific activities that had to occur before incentive payments could be spent. Several early requirements include the following:

- Establish a process for identifying Regional Extension.
- Define meaningful use and meaningful user - ONC expects cross-agency activities to be completed in the next several weeks.
- Funding investments - relying on the \$2B for getting the infrastructure in place before the incentive payments in 2011.

In addition, the [HIT Standards Committee](#) held its inaugural meeting on May 15th. At the meeting, Dr. Blumenthal reiterated his observations on ARRA from earlier in the week, and reminded committee members that their tasking is to get the standards for technology correct, so the U.S. can deliver on a healthcare system that has improved quality and efficiency. He challenged the Committee to ask themselves' how their decisions will improve meaningful use and how meaningful use can then lead to better quality care.

Dr. Blumenthal also suggested that HITSP be an important resource in future standards harmonization activities. He indicated that HITSP is in the process of transitioning its work from the use case - based approach to a functionality and criteria-based approach, which is intended to simplify the compliance process for end-users and vendor organizations. He also stated that CCHIT's role in the certification process is under review by the HIT Policy Committee.

** Editor's Note: For a full list of committee members, please visit: <http://www.hhs.gov/news>. Congratulations to **PAeHI Board member and Geisinger CMIO Jim Walker** for being named to the Standards Committee. Gina Perez of the Delaware Health Information Network was also named to the Standards Committee.*

- from HIMSS News

ICD-10

The proposed \$3.5 billion discretionary budget for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) includes \$62.5 million to begin CMS conversion to ICD-10 by October 1, 2013. The ICD-10 funds are included within the \$691.4 million for CMS information technology systems and other supporting activities. CMS states that ICD-10 "will make it easier to determine if a claim was appropriately billed, provide more specific data necessary for value-based purchasing, and prevent fraud and abuse." View the [proposed budget](#).

- from AHIMA Advantage, Volume 11, Issue 20

The Red Flags Rule

May 20, 2009 | John Halamka, MD, CIO, CareGroup Health System, Harvard Medical School

You may have seen the recent headlines "FTC delays Red Flags Rule implementation until August 2009." What is the Red Flags Rule and how does it relate to healthcare? The FTC has a [great website](#) that it explains it all in detail.

Basically, the FTC requires most clinical offices, hospitals, and other healthcare providers to develop a written program to spot the warning signs of identity theft - "red flags."

If a patient's name on a photo ID and their insurance card do not match, that's a red flag.

If a patient visited last week as John Smith but today is Fred Jones, that's a red flag.

If a patient seems to travel from provider to provider seeking numerous expensive treatments, that's a red flag.

The law was initially designed to cover creditors and it seems odd for healthcare providers to be considered creditors. The FTC defines a creditor as anyone who enables the customer to carry a balance after services are rendered. Unless a clinician asks for payment upfront (all balances not covered by insurance), the clinician is a creditor.

The FTC will begin enforcement August 1, 2009, so it's important to develop policies and procedures to address red flags in healthcare settings.

If you have not begun a program to address compliance with the Red Flag rule, now is the time!

- from Healthcare Finance News, May 20, 2009

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

NATIONAL NEWS ROUND-UP

MEDecision Acquisition of Hx Technologies Announced

[MEDecision Inc.](#) finalized its acquisition of [Hx Technologies Inc.](#) in a deal involving two Philadelphia-area healthcare information-technology companies. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

MEDecision of Wayne, Pa., is a developer of healthcare management software used by insurers to manage the health of members and improve the quality and affordability of the care they receive.

Hx Technologies of Philadelphia is a health information-exchange company that specializes in enabling the seamless and secure flow of clinical data among healthcare providers.

** Editor's Note: Hx founder and CEO, Elliot Menschik, serves on the Board of PAeHI.*

- from Philadelphia Business Journal, May, 12 2009

Intel/GE Healthcare Partnership Announced

[Intel](#) Corp. and [General Electric](#) Co. announced an alliance to develop and sell technology to help care for the elderly and chronically ill in their homes.

Intel Chief Executive Paul Otellini and GE Chief Jeffrey Immelt Thursday pledged to invest more than \$250 million over five years on research and development associated with the effort.

Among other things, GE will sell and market a system called the Intel Health Guide, which is designed to help patients track their health and provide data about their conditions over the Internet to doctors.

The partnership is based on a belief that caring for patients in the home can bring cost savings over treating them in hospitals. While GE is already a giant in products sold to hospitals, it is a much smaller player in home healthcare. Intel, a dominant force in computing that has been trying to build a business in healthcare, is hoping to exploit GE's salesforce in bringing its new offering to a wider audience.

- from the Wall Street Journal, April 2, 2009

dbMotion and Allscripts Partner to Create Connected Medical Communities

[dbMotion](#), a leading provider of **health interoperability** and intelligence solutions, and [Allscripts](#), a leader in software, services, information, and connectivity solutions for physicians and hospitals, agreed to create tightly integrated connectivity solutions that allow physician communities to see a more holistic view of their **patient's clinical record** and to collaborate with providers throughout their community.

Under the terms of the agreement, [Allscripts](#) and dbMotion will develop joint solutions to present information in a seamless way to clinicians. [Allscripts](#) will offer the dbMotion™ Solution to its more than 700 healthcare system and hospital customers for the benefit of ambulatory physician groups affiliated with, or employed by, those hospitals, thereby offering another tool to enhance patient care through better physician collaboration and information sharing.

** Editor's Note: dbMotion's U.S. operations are based out of Pittsburgh, PA, and is in part-owned by UPMC.*

- from MedicExchange.com, May 13, 2009

Allscripts Announces EHR Education for Physicians

Allscripts in early May announced the formation of a [coalition to educate 500,000 U.S. physicians](#) about opportunities aligned with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The EHR Stimulus Alliance - which includes Allscripts, Cisco, Citrix, Dell,

Intel, Intuit, Microsoft, and Nuance - is sponsoring the "[EHR Stimulus Tour](#)" in cities across the country to educate physicians about electronic health records (EHR). [Philadelphia](#) was scheduled to be one of the stops for the tour on May 27.

- from HAP Update, May 15, 2009

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[Moving Healthcare Forward](#) • [Moving Healthcare Forward](#) • [Moving Healthcare Forward](#)

PAeHI BOARD and MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to James Walker, MD, Geisinger Health System CMIO, Ex-Officio PAeHI Board member and Co-Chair of the Communications and Educations Committee for his recent appoint to the Health and Human Services Department's Healthcare Information Technology Standards Committee... and best wishes to LHIE SIG Co-chairs Buddy Gillespie and Steve Fox who - following the successful publication of their "Ensuring Privacy & Security of HIE in PA" white paper - are taking their collaborative show on the road to present at the Collaborative Communications Summit "Transforming Healthcare Through HIT" in Ft. Lauderdale, FL June 16-17.

PAeHI WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!

PAeHI is thrilled to welcome the following new members to our growing ranks:

ADVANCE Magazine for Health Information Management Professionals
The Consulate of Canada
ACS Government Healthcare Solutions
Greencastle Associates Consulting
Noteworthy Medical Systems
Service-now.com
LFG Resources, Inc.
Orion Health
IGI
Richard S. Citrin

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[Moving Healthcare Forward](#) • [Moving Healthcare Forward](#) • [Moving Healthcare Forward](#)

MEMBER PROFILE

ADVANCE for Health Information Executives (<http://health-care-it.advanceweb.com/Editorial/Content/Editorial.aspx?CC=199027>) is a monthly, national health IT publication, based in King of Prussia, Pa., that reaches more than 40,000 CIOs and senior-level IT executives. What makes ADVANCE unique to health IT publications, is that it welcomes and encourages CIOs and senior-level IT executives to regularly write for the magazine and accompanying Web site. Managing Editor Bob Mitchell, a PAeHI member since 2008, offered his editorial expertise on the PAeHI privacy & security whitepaper.

Included recently in the pages of ADVANCE (see April and May 2009 issues - see pages 25 and 19 respectively, and link: <http://health-care-it.advanceweb.com/Editorial/Content/Editorial.aspx?CC=199027>), was an article on "HIEs Explained," written by Bob Mitchell. The article included comments from many health IT industry experts, including PaEHI board member, Mark Jacobs, MHA, CPHIMS, director of IT services at Wellspan Health in York, Pa.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[Moving Healthcare Forward](#) • [Moving Healthcare Forward](#) • [Moving Healthcare Forward](#)

... MORE EVENT PHOTOS

Solutions Showcase
May 4, 2009 (Afternoon & Evening)



Solutions Showcase displays in the East Rotunda of the State Capitol Building, Harrisburg.



Representative Josh Shapiro (D-153rd District); Charles Jarvis, assistant vice president, NextGen; Tim Schoener, president DVHIMSS, Mark Stevens, executive director, PA eHealth Initiative, holding the Pennsylvania House proclamation naming May 4, 2009 PA Healthcare IT Awareness Day.



State Senator (R-48th District) and PAeHI Board Member Mike Folmer; Tim Schoener, President DVHIMSS, holding the Senate Proclamation naming May 4, 2009 PA Healthcare IT Awareness Day.

**PA HIMSS Second Annual Advocacy Day
Tuesday May 5, 2009**



Kim Slocum, Policy Chair, Advocacy Day Planning Committee, holding the Healthcare IT Champion award which was presented by PA HIMSS to Philadelphia Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz.



Advocacy Day Logistics Chair, Denise Hamel-Jones and Deputy Secretary for the Administration of the PA Department of Health, Robert Torres, Esq.



Advocacy Day participants meet with State Senator Andy Dinniman (pictured center) in his Capitol office in Harrisburg.



Advocacy Day Training underway. The number of Advocacy Day participants increased 65% over last year's inaugural event. Way to go!

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[Moving Healthcare Forward](#) • [Moving Healthcare Forward](#) • [Moving Healthcare Forward](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event Calendar

PA HIMSS Board Elections

June 1 - 12, 2009

On-line voting for board members

June 15 - June 19, 2009

Election results tallied and announced

June 3, 2009

Telehealth Leadership Conference (Webcast) (**please see below announcement*)

June 17, 2009 - 1:00PM - 3:00PM

Next PAeHI Board Meeting - Teleconference

July 29, 2009 - 1:00PM - 4:00PM

PAeHI Monthly Board Meeting, HAP HQs, Harrisburg

August 26, 2009

PAeHI All-Committee Event, PA Medical Society, Harrisburg

September 21, 2009

HIMSS National HIT Week (HIT Advocacy Day, September 22), Washington, DC

October 3-8, 2009

AHIMA National Conference, Grapevine, TX

October 22, 23, 2009

Regional Healthcare IT Conference *"Stimulating Healthcare by Achieving Meaningful Use in HIT,"* Delaware Valley and New Jersey HIMSS, Atlantic City, NJ

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[Moving Healthcare Forward](#) • [Moving Healthcare Forward](#) • [Moving Healthcare Forward](#)

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Open Letter from Joe Tracy, Vice President Telehealth Services, Lehigh Valley Health Network

While I have worked with many of you over the last few years, let me introduce myself to the others. I'm Joe Tracy, VP - Telehealth Services at Lehigh Valley Health Network in Allentown. I also have a few side jobs - Chair of the Center for Telehealth (CTeL) and eHealth Law in DC, a member of the HIMSS Advocacy and Public Policy Steering Committee and a member of ATA's Policy Committee. I'm writing this note to encourage those involved in telehealth programs in PA to register for the Telehealth Leadership Conference (TLC) on June 3, 2009. This is the 7th Annual conference. However, out of respect for the economy and those of us with travel restrictions, this year's meeting is

being done as a webcast. No travel, no travel cost and the registration fee is under \$100.

Why is the TLC important? Well, when I consider the two big issues for healthcare at the Federal level I think about the Stimulus Package and the Health Care Reform Package. Both are important but they are very different. I liken the Stimulus Package to a shot of antibiotics to cure a problem for the short term. I liken Health Care Reform to a vaccination that is going to be good for the long term. The TLC will focus on getting the language of the Thompson Bill (H.R. 2068) into the Health Care Reform Package. *Needless to say, if we don't get enough people across the Nation asking for this language to be rolled into health reform, it will not be included.* The grass roots can be a very powerful force in getting this accomplished and this will be the main focus of the TLC.

During the TLC we will hear from various individuals such as Congressman Thompson, Mary Wakefield (new HRSA Administrator), Dr. Jay Sanders and Bob Waters. I hope you will consider registering, or if you cannot make it, have one of your staff register and take good notes. Don't forget to include your Government Relations Manager too.

Feel free to distribute this message, to anyone else you think would be interested in the TLC.

The link to the TLC is: <http://www.telehealthleadership.org/Events.html>. You can download the agenda and also register from this link.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joseph Tracy
joseph.tracy@lvh.com

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

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