

NOTICES

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

Pennsylvania Health Information Exchange Proposed Strategic Plan

[39 Pa.B. 6705]

[Saturday, November 21, 2009]

On behalf of Governor Edward G. Rendell, Ann Torregrossa, Director of the Governor's Office of Health Care Reform (GOHCR), announces that the proposed strategic plan for the Pennsylvania Health Information Exchange (PHIX) is available for a 30-day public comment period, beginning November 21, 2009. A copy of the proposed plan can be accessed at: www.gohcr.state.pa.us/assets/pdfs/PHIXstrategicplan_draft.pdf.

Increased use of health information technology as a means to improve the quality, safety and efficiency of health care is a key objective of both *Prescription for Pennsylvania*, the Governor's blueprint for health care reform, and recently announced Federal information technology stimulus funding opportunities. To accomplish this in this Commonwealth, the GOHCR is issuing a draft strategic plan for the Pennsylvania Health Information Exchange, or PHIX.

The vision for PHIX is to strengthen Pennsylvania's health care system through timely, secure and authorized exchange of health information among patients and their health care providers. Health information exchange through PHIX will support patient-centered health care and continuous improvements in access, quality, outcomes and efficiency of care. GOHCR is seeking input on the strategic plan and more specifically, the recommendations regarding PHIX governance and financing and consumer ability to opt-in or out of PHIX.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the PHIX Proposed Strategic Plan by December 20, 2009. GOHCR will accept comments by e-mail, which should be submitted to RA-PHIXStrategicPlan@state.pa.us. A return name and address must be included in each e-mail submission, also specify the specific section or subsection the comment corresponds to in the draft plan if possible.

Persons in need of accommodations as provided for the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 should e-mail the previously listed e-mail address with contact information and a GOHCR representative will contact them to discuss how GOHCR may accommodate their needs.

ANN S. TORREGROSSA, Esq.,
Director