

SB 251
TASK FORCE TO STUDY ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

January 8, 2007
MINUTES

Task Force Members in Attendance √, Absent x, Representative *:

√ Thomas Allen	x Paul Fowler	x* Shane Pendergrass
√ Stephanie Amey	x David Gens	√ Victor Plavner
√ Peter Basch	√ Mary Hendler	√ Jack Schwartz
√ Beverly Collins	x* Paula Hollinger	√ Kevin Sexton
√ Barbara Cook	x Aubrey Knight	√ Dorothy Snow
x Jimmie Drummond	√ Carey Leverett	x Angelo Voxakis
√ Rex Cowdry	√ Thomas Lewis	√ James Wieland
x John Eichensehr	x Gina McKnight-Smith	√ Ken Yale
x Michael Flores	√ Susan Newbold	

*Steve Mandell for Paula Hollinger

*DeWayne L. Oberlander for Shane Pendergrass

I. Meeting Call to Order

Task Force Chair Peter Basch, M.D. called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Chairman Basch welcomed Task Force members and the public to the meeting. Staff introduced Mr. Brian Balicki, consultant from Social and Health Services who will be assisting staff and the Task Force in writing the final report due to the General Assembly by December 30, 2007.

Chairman Basch noted that a number of states still do not permit e-prescribing. The Chairman said that as of Friday, January 5, 2007, practitioners in Washington, D.C. are now able to send prescriptions to pharmacies electronically. Chairman Basch said that concerns over privacy and security tend to be key drivers for states that do not allow e-prescribing.

Chairman Basch stated the Health and Government Operations Committee has invited the Maryland Chapter of the Health Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) to brief the Committee on Health Information Technology. The briefing is scheduled in Annapolis on January 18, 2007, at 1:00pm in the Lowe House Building. The Chairman encouraged Task Force members to attend the briefing, and noted that several Task Force members were asked by HIMSS to present to the Committee. Task Force members presenting to the Committee include Dr. Victor Plavner, Dr. Barbara Cook and Dr. Rex Cowdry.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Mr. James Wieland made a motion to approve minutes of the December 11, 2006 meeting, which was seconded by Dr. Cowdry, and unanimously approved.

III. Workgroup Breakout Session Instructions from the Chair and Vice Chair.

Chairman Basch asked whether Task Force members had any further comments or suggestions for changes to the final report outline. No additional comments were put forth by Task Force members. The Chairman said that Workgroups will be asked to review and comment on different sections of the draft report as sections are completed by staff and the consultant. Chairman Basch reminded members that throughout these final months of deliberations, discussions during the breakout sessions should center on policy matters specific to the Workgroup's charge.

IV. Workgroup Sessions

Each Workgroup met for breakout sessions.

V. Workgroup Updates and Task Force Discussion

Dr. Beverly Collins reported the Electronic Prescribing Workgroup continued discussing the definition of e-prescribing. The Workgroup's vision of e-prescribing includes full connectivity between prescribers, Pharmacy Benefit Managers, and pharmacies. The Workgroup discussed policy questions developed by the Chairman, and identified several areas that required further research and investigation, including a more thorough understanding of state and federal regulations that may impact e-prescribing. Mr. J.P. Little, Chief Operating Officer for RxHub, will address the Workgroup at the February meeting. Chairman Basch noted that RxHub would be presenting to interested Task Force members and the public from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. as part of a pre-meeting presentation session. Participation in the 2:00 p.m. meeting is optional for Task Force members.

Mr. Wieland reported the Electronic Patient Information Workgroup had reached consensus on definitions for electronic health records, electronic medical records, and personal health records. Definitions will be posted on the MHCC's website under the Task Force webpage. Mr. Wieland mentioned that efforts are underway to further explore the list of policy questions developed by the Chairman, as well as to consider other policy issues related to electronic patient information. The Workgroup plans to revisit the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act in February to assess information sharing opportunities with school based health centers.

Vice Chairman Yale reported the Infrastructure Management Workgroup continued its discussion on privacy issues. Deliberations focused on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), and whether the Administrative Simplification privacy provisions should be the floor or ceiling in Maryland. As part of the discussion, the Workgroup considered the broad question of who owns electronic health information. Vice Chairman Yale said the Workgroup revisited the Connecting for Health Common Framework principles, Policy Guides: How Information is Protected. The Workgroup plans to develop a policy implication matrix of the different infrastructure models and present it at a later date to the Task Force for deliberation.

Chairman Basch asked whether it would be useful for the Task Force to discuss ownership, flow, and control of electronic health information at an upcoming Task Force meeting. Chairman Basch encouraged the Infrastructure Management Workgroup to continue its discussion around the policy questions distributed to the Workgroup in October.

VI. Closing Remarks by the Chair

Chairman Basch announced that the next meeting of the Task Force would be on February 12, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. The Chairman encouraged Task Force members to attend the RxHub presentation at 2:00 p.m. on February 12th. He thanked members of the Task Force and the public for attending the meeting. There being no further business, the Task Force meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.