

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Health Information Technology Standards Advisory Committee**  
**(HITSAC)**

**Thursday, August 18, 2011**

Commonwealth Enterprise Solutions Center  
11751 Meadowville Lane  
Chester, VA 23836  
Multipurpose Room 1222

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Members Present:**

Dr. Marshall Ruffin, Chairman  
John Quinn  
Dr. Jim Harrison  
Dr. Sallie Cook

**Others Present:**

Dave Mix, DMAS  
Kim Barnes, Office of Health IT, Director  
Karen Jackson, Secretary of Technology - Deputy Secretary  
Susan McCleary, VITA/EAD, HITSAC Admin  
Akeisha Heard, VITA/EAD  
Lynne Jeffries, VITA/PMD  
Todd Kissam, VITA/PP&A  
Joseph Grubbs  
Fred Norman, CVC, LLC  
Carl Miller, Impact Makers, Inc.  
C.W. Laugerbaum, Advantus Strategies  
Chris Whyte  
Judy Napier, CGI  
Ifti Qadir, VITA/EAD  
Jerry Simonoff, VITA/ESG  
Maurion Edwards, DGS  
Debbie Dodson, VITA/EAD

**Members Absent:**

Rich Pollack

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Marshall Ruffin called the meeting to order at 10:34 am in the VITA Multipurpose Room 1222 at the Commonwealth Enterprise Solutions Center in Chester, VA. Chairman Ruffin welcomed the Committee and attendees.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2011 HITSAC Meeting**

Chairman Ruffin asked the Committee if there were any additions or changes to the minutes. Dr. Sallie Cook noted on page 3 under *HIE RFP Status Report*, the phrase "the government piece" should be "the governance piece." The minutes were revised to reflect the change.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as revised. The revised Minutes of June 16, 2011 were unanimously adopted.

## NEW BUSINESS:

### HIE Status Report

Ms. Kim Barnes reported that the HIE contract award was on schedule and that VDH is in final negotiations with the vendor. She said they should have the award by the end of August and several approvals were needed (e.g., Attorney General, ONC). In response to a question, she noted that the contract will be with the VA Dept. of Health and a Virginia nonprofit organization.

Chairman Ruffin reported that HITSAC had talked about a relationship between state government and HL7. Ms. Barnes said the proposal concerned an enterprise membership with HL7 based on participation by local health districts. She explained that the issue for Virginia is that local health departments are not independent and their connection to the state agency is via an administrative utility known as WebVision. She stated there would only be one license agreement with HL7 and the VA Dept. of Health. She noted the interplay of HL7 membership and the Commonwealth Authentication Service (CAS) for an enterprise license was premature since CAS is in the planning stage. Ms. Barnes said they have spoken with the HL7 president and are waiting for a response.

### MITA Program Status Report

Mr. David Mix reported on the MITA Program (see *HITSAC - HIT/MITA Program Activities*). He stated the VITA and DMV Memorandum of Understanding was in place with funding available for VITA HITSAC support. He noted that PMO staffing is in progress and he hoped it would be finished in the next month.

In discussing the data sharing agreements for the state government gateway, Mr. Mix reported that a participant list of 20 Information Security Officers (ISOs), attorneys, and someone from the APA is ready and the first meeting will be soon. He stated the final report should be released by January 1, 2012 and the group would look at changes needed to the DURSA and barriers to sharing data. He noted they are also working on a final list of code citations and regulations to be reviewed. Mr. Mix stated that DMV plans to slow down on the CAS effort so the other agencies involved (including the HIE) can catch-up.

Regarding MITA Care Management, Mr. Mix stated that CMS funding has been requested. In response to Chairman Ruffin's question, he clarified that the funding was part of the \$60 million. He discussed the Rhapsody Connectivity project and that it will enable both VDH and the Labs, which use Rhapsody products, to connect to the VITA enterprise environment to allow interoperability between DCLS, VDH and Commonwealth IT systems. He noted that interfaces for the Immunization Registry, Syndromic Surveillance and Electronic Lab Reporting, through Rhapsody, would be needed for meaningful use.

Ms. Susan McCleary commented that HITSAC is developing standards for the transaction types that exist now. Ms. McCleary asked if there are other transaction types that will need to be addressed in the future. Mr. Mix responded that the Labs and VDH have the right standard level and only one or two of the interfaces might require an update.

Mr. John Quinn commented that Meaningful Use Stage 1 should be able to accept a lab result from a reference file and Meaningful Use Stage 2 will have final rules by June 2012. He stated that based on discussion with ONC staff, the expectation is electronic lab reporting will be required to upgrade from HL7 2.5.1 to HL7 2.7.1. He noted HL7 2.7.1, which adds new fields, would be released as implementation guides, not as a standard and would be in balloting shortly.

Dr. Sallie Cook remarked that the biggest likely difference between Stage 1 and Stage 2 is the increased volume required and that future stages will incorporate new elements that have not been accounted for. Mr. Quinn also discussed new CDA documents, similar to the CCD, that likely will be created to handle other structured documents, such as for discharging a patient from a hospital.

Mr. Mix said change is inevitable and governance will be a key to making things work. Mr. Quinn asked about change management and Mr. Mix responded that VITA had a change management infrastructure. Chairman Ruffin noted that a briefing by VITA about change management would be needed in the future.

Mr. Mix said there would be no member management projects in phase 1 as the Commonwealth was looking to replace their eligibility systems in phase 2. He reported there was a meeting of HHR agencies, led by Secretary Hazel, on August 9, 2011 where replacement of eligibility systems was discussed and the direction and approach of using the Michigan-developed system was confirmed. The Governor and Chief of Staff attended part of the meeting. He stated that procurement for an integrator to do that work would be needed. He noted it would take 6-12 months to receive the funding and to have the integrator start.

Mr. Quinn noted that change management needs to be largely driven by ONC and suggested that Virginia raise its concerns with the HIE project liaison for ONC. He also suggested that Virginia may want to have regular status meetings with ONC. Chairman Ruffin and Ms. Barnes endorsed Mr. Quinn's suggestion.

Chairman Ruffin asked Mr. Mix about the status of the MITA use cases. Mr. Mix stated they were on CMS's back burner. Mr. Quinn noted that "communication just stopped" between CMS and HL7 after ARRA came out.

Ms. McCleary said the work plan for HITSAC would have care management standards in place by the end of the year. Ms. McCleary asked Mr. Mix what is next. Mr. Mix suggested the Committee have DSS discuss the Michigan eligibility system. He confirmed for Ms. McCleary that standards for member management would be needed for next year. Chairman Ruffin asked Ms. McCleary and Mr. Mix to prepare a list of questions that HITSAC should address.

## VITA and HHR MITA Program Support Update

Mr. Todd Kissam gave a status report (see *VITA Support of HHR & MITA Status Update*). He said VITA had been supporting the efforts while waiting for funding. He noted that a program manager should be hired before the next HITSAC meeting and that person will likely give the status updates going forward.

During his update, Mr. Kissam noted that phase 2 of DMV's CAS effort will be delayed to allow other parts of the MITA effort (e.g., HIE, EDM) to catch up.

In response to Chairman Ruffin's question regarding the governance framework, Mr. Kissam said VITA was adopting the spirit of the framework because some Code of Virginia changes are necessary to implement the full framework. He stated that VITA is awaiting a response from the Secretary of Technology on how to proceed with those changes. Chairman Ruffin asked if the draft governance framework was helpful and Mr. Kissam said it was beneficial.

## Federal Update

Mr. John Quinn gave a brief summary of federal activity. In response to a question, he noted there is an initiative within ONC as to what their response and direction will be concerning the use of NIEM. He stated the federal approach is practical for data model, terminology, and use cases and there is discussion around whether they will create a healthcare domain for NIEM.

Mr. Quinn suggested to HITSAC and ONC that OASIS should be examined. He explained that Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) is a standards organization that has standards using NIEM and HL7 to connect ambulances to emergency rooms and the Department of Homeland Security to first responders.

Mr. Quinn reported there was a public HIT Policy Committee recommendation for ONC to delay Meaningful Use Stage 2 for one year due to quality issues in Stage 1. He believed it was likely that the rules for Stage 2 would be released in June 2012 but implementation would be delayed a year. He noted there was no public recommendation for Stage 1 deadlines to be extended.

## Person Data Standard

Ms. Susan McCleary and Ms. Akeisha Heard gave a presentation concerning the person data standard. Ms. McCleary walked the Committee through the presentation (see *Enterprise Data Standard: Person & Contact Methods* presentation), discussing scope, context and purpose. Ms. McCleary explained the purpose for the person data standard is to define the attributes used for matching in the Initiate Enterprise Data Management (EDM) tool.

Ms. Heard reported that the discussions at various meetings with Commonwealth agencies and separately with IBM addressed whether the logical model included the correct entities, definition for each entity, attributes for each entity, definition for each attribute and valid values for those attributes. Ms. Heard briefly walked through the various documents provided to the Committee (see *EDM - Person & Contact Methods Data Standard - Data Dictionary, DRAFT: EDM - Person & Contact Methods - Logical Model View - V1.0*, and *DRAFT: Enterprise Architecture - EDM - Person & Contact Methods Data Standard Narrative*).

Ms. McCleary stated that the next steps included HITSAC agreement to recommend approval of the standards, post to ORCA for 30-day public comment period, address comments received, finalize the draft data standard and submit the data standard for approval by the CIO and Secretary of Technology. Ms. McCleary said once the HIE vendor was selected, they would need to meet with them and IBM Initiate. She noted that the IBM Initiate team members are scheduled to attend the next HITSAC meeting to address the Committee members' questions and concerns.

Ms. Heard and Ms. McCleary explained all aspects of the person data standards and developed data model. They responded to many questions and suggestions from Committee members during an extended discussion of the person entities and attributes (names, aliases, addresses, phone numbers, Social Security numbers, Virginia drivers license numbers, gender, etc.), code sets and matching criteria.

Chairman Ruffin called for a vote to adopt the proposed draft person data standards. The Committee members all voted to approve the standards for public comment.

## Data Exchange Standards

Ms. Susan McCleary reported on the proposed care management data exchange standards for the categories of electronic lab reporting, immunizations and syndromic surveillance (see *Enterprise Data Governance - Care Management Data Exchange Standards - Care Management Category*). Ms. McCleary explained that the standards were compiled from the agencies based on the existing data exchanges that are now in use. She noted that the standards need to be in place before the start of the respective projects (estimated in October 2011).

Chairman Ruffin stated the Committee needed to vote to endorse the data exchange standards presented by Ms. McCleary and Ms. Heard with qualifications. One qualification was that HL7 2.3.1 and HL7 2.5.1 may not be used in Meaningful Use Stage 2. Mr. Quinn noted that implementation guides for HL7 2.3.1 are not as specific as they need to be and there are multiple implementation guides.

A motion was made for the Committee to endorse the continued use of the existing standards on an interim basis for continued operations and validation of the COV HIE until the new standards to support Meaningful Use Stage 2 are available and approved by ONC. The motion was seconded and carried.

## Planning for September Meeting

Chairman Ruffin addressed the draft agenda for the September 15, 2011 HITSAC meeting (see *September 15 Draft Agenda*). He noted that provider and organization data standards would involve a more complex discussion than the person and data exchange standards just discussed. In addition, he stated the Committee had talked about the addition of a change management plan to be presented by VITA, having DSS discuss the Michigan eligibility system and comment on interface standards for MITA, and having the HIE vendor meet with HITSAC to discuss the standards for person, organization and provider. Ms. McCleary suggested that HITSAC invite HIE for the entire September meeting and move the eligibility/interface discussion with DSS and MITA to the October meeting, along with the discussion of VITA change management. Ms. McCleary recommended HITSAC invite all the agencies that have provider and organization interests, and to talk with CapTech at DMV to discuss what requirements they might have uncovered.

Mr. Quinn advised that he would be unable to attend the October meeting. Dr. Jim Harrison and Ms. Karen Jackson said that they could not attend due as well. Chairman Ruffin noted that the Committee needed to have a quorum and they should contact Mr. Rich Pollack to see if he could attend. Dr. Harrison said he could participate in the meeting via conference call. Ms. McCleary noted that Dr. Harrison would need to disclose his location and have members of the public present. Ms. Jackson suggested the discussions take place at the September meeting and defer a vote to the October meeting. Chairman Ruffin stated that was a good plan.

## Public Comment

Chairman Ruffin called for other public comment. There was none.

## Adjourn

As there was no further business, Chairman Ruffin adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.