



Virginia Information Technologies Agency

Health Information Technology Standards Advisory Committee

Dr. Marshall Ruffin

Chair, HITSAC

Status Report to the
Information Technology Advisory Council
Oct. 31, 2016



HITSAC Background

- Created in 2009 with current appointees including top health IT subject matter experts in the Commonwealth (UVA, VT, VCU, Inova Health System)
- Advises ITAC, CIO of the Commonwealth, and the Secretaries of Technology and Health & Human Resources, pursuant to § 2.2-2699.7
- HITSAC Charter

https://www.vita.virginia.gov/uploadedFiles/VITA_Main_Public/ITAC/HITSAC/HITSAC_Charter_Adopted.pdf



Government Gateway

- Secretaries Hazel and Duffey asked HITSAC to define the HIT standards for a single Web portal (the Government Gateway) for all citizens to access all services of all agencies of state government.
- HITSAC did so.
- The Commonwealth won funding from HHS to create the government gateway for Health and Human Resources – the eHHR
- Other agencies did not adopt our Government Gateway design – arguing lack of funding



Recent Accomplishments

- Currently, 128 external health IT standards adopted as Commonwealth ITRM Standards based on agency business requirements and HITSAC recommendations
http://www.vita.virginia.gov/uploadedFiles/VITA_Main_Public/ITAC/HITSAC/COV_Health_IT_Standards.pdf
- Domains of adopted health IT standards cover nomenclature, clinical documentation, laboratory reporting, prescription medicine, genomics, billing/payment/reimbursement, etc.
- HITSAC's leadership on health IT standards and support of governance activities has made the Commonwealth a model for interoperability



Recent Accomplishments

- Supported Virginia's investment of HITECH and Affordable Care Act funds by advising on applicable health IT standards
- Advised the state government on HL7's Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) standard to promote citizen access to electronic health records
- Endorsed a Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) initiative to broaden the definition of providers and to identify data standards for home and community based services



Recent Accomplishments

- Advised on Virginia's statewide health information exchange (ConnectVirginia) to promote interoperability with VITA's shared services portfolio
- Advised on Commonwealth's Data Standardization Plan and Enterprise Information Architecture (EIA) Strategy, adopted in 2013 as the framework to support data sharing, governance, and asset management
- Endorsed creation of the Commonwealth Data Stewards Groups, responsible for enterprise-level data governance across the state government
- Advised on adoption of the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) to standardize "citizen-centric" data pursuant to Item 427 requirements



Recent Accomplishments

- Established the Genomics Working Group (GWG) to investigate requirements for health IT standards to support personalized medicine, clinical genomics, and related genetic research (members included representatives from the CDC and HL7)
 - Use Case #1 – Process for Implementing a Clinical-Grade Variant File within the Healthway eHealth Exchange
 - Use Case #2 – Process for Integrating Results from Pharmacogenomic Testing across EHR Systems
- GWG recommended for adoption:
 - CLIA - Public Law 100-578. The CLIA standards cover all laboratory testing (except research) performed on humans in the United States.
 - Health Level 7 (HL7) Implementation Guide for CDA Release 2: Genetic Testing Reports, Release 1
 - HL7 Version 2 Implementation Guide: Clinical Genomics; fully LOINC-Qualified Cytogenetic Model, Release 1 (US Realm)
 - HL7 Version 2 Implementation Guide: Clinical Genomics, fully LOINC-Qualified Genetic Variation Model (US Realm)



Current Work Plan

- Genomics: Continuing GWG pharmacogenomics use case to promote the exchange of genomic information for Rx as structured data into a patient's electronic health record
- Cyber Security: Exploring HITRUST Common Security Framework, a cyber security strategy for health care that harmonizes existing standards, e.g. ISO, NIST, PCI, HIPAA, and COBIT
- Precision Medicine: Monitoring emerging health IT standards and recommending updates to existing standards to support new initiatives in the area of precision medicine. Partners include Clem McDonald, MD (founder of LOINC), and Molly Ullman-Cullere (HL7 Genomics Working Group)

White House Precision Medicine Initiative: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/precision-medicine>



Current Work Plan

- Center of Excellence for Genomics and Bioinformatics: Governor McAuliffe's initiative in Northern Virginia, which HITSAC will support by defining interoperability standards for predictive algorithms and API layers for machine learning algorithms. A primary goal of the initiative will be to enable the results from predictive modeling to be integrated into a patient's electronic health record, through health information exchange using ConnectVirginia.



For More Information

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