

HS XML Work Group
Tuesday, December 1, 2009
4:00PM – 5:00 PM EST

Attendees:

Alisa West Cahill	Canavan Associates
Butch Giusto	Radii Technologies
Jen Hoey	Community Technology Alliance
Eric Jahn	Alexandria Consulting
Samantha Karwin	Canavan Associates
Steve Kennedy	Community Collaboration Inc.
Laura McLain	Wilder Research
Dan Nichols	Housing First
Brigitte Pussehl	Community Technology Alliance
Barb Ritter	MI Coalition Against Homelessness
Nancy Shank, Chair	University of Nebraska
Tony Sterzinger	Father Joe's Villages

Draft Vendor Survey

Several Work Group members have provided feedback on the Vendor Survey, which has now undergone two revisions. A few areas that need further refinement are identifying, for example, if we want to know if it is merely possible for a vendor to import/export data or if this function is an existing utility within a base application. Additionally, we may wish to add a question allowing vendors to share which communities they work with that are involved in data integration as this would allow us to document where data exchange is happening along with related challenges and successes.

A next step is to envision what we will do with the results and to let this inform the process. Eric will coordinate a one hour teleconference prior to Dec. 21st dedicated to the finalization of the survey. Current attendance is expected to include at the least: Butch, Eric, Gabe, and Jahmal but all are welcome to attend. If interested in attending, please contact Eric or Alisa.

Sister Survey to Vendor Survey: As vendors respond to demand, the Work Group may consider a survey designed to gauge consumer demand for interoperability.

NIEM

- **NIEMitizing the HS XML Standard:** Eric has completed the NIEM online course and can now proceed with NIEMitizing the HUD HMIS XML; there is hope that AIRS will proceed with this path as well. Eric has begun searching various elements in NIEM 2.1 and the next step is to cross analyze NIEM elements against HUD HMIS XML elements to identify similarities as well as missing elements that need to be developed. Then, application of the NIEM standard to HUD HMIS XML can begin. Work on developing IEPDs¹, use cases, and modeling is expected to be time intensive. NIEMitizing efforts will focus on HUD HMIS XML as this standard, and funding opportunities, exist whereas an HS XML standard is currently theoretical and lacks development funding. As an HS XML standard is developed, possibly in partnership with contacts made in Baltimore at

¹ IEPD: Information Exchange Package Documentation

the NIEM Fall 2009 Conference, it may develop in line with NIEM. Members are cautioned that a strong proposal on the relevance and criticality of a NIEM enhanced HUD HMIS XML will likely be needed to encourage HUD's adoption of such standard. Further, it is important to keep in mind that HUD is currently committed to update the HMIS XML format no more than once every two years and version 3.0 is anticipated to be released in Jan. 2010.

- DCDS: Cristina, Eric, and Nancy are working on a proposal to the Department of Homeland Security to fund the NIEMitization of the Disaster Client Data Standard (DCDS).

Federal and State Communications Using XML: Barb has a question into the measurement group from the GAO re: which federal departments use XML to support interoperability. It is expected at the very least that sectors within criminal justice and the health and human services arenas will be identified as using XML. As XML is not always the select format (i.e. some exchanges between local systems and BIA continue to use DOS based system) Barb will refer to the data format catalog (still undergoing vetting process by HUD) developed by Michelle and Nancy. The catalog identifies data formats as well as contacts.

Funding: A challenge faced by the HS XML Work Group, and that inhibits movement on the development of an HS XML standard, is that most members working on HS XML do so during very limited free time. Therefore, the group has opted to explore funding options again. Considerations for funding:

- Focus on both state and federal funding. Funding streams to consider include those focused on :
 - criminal justice as this sector is experienced in interoperability and considering overlap between criminal justice and other human and social services this may be an ideal place to advance HS XML based on need and potential benefits
 - Veterans, particularly as soldiers return from active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, due to interest in services received and related outcomes
 - Health and human services sectors
 - Substance abuse and mental health possibly via SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)
 - Infectious disease management and particularly seasonal and pandemic influenza via the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
 - Health information technology through HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) as this is a \$19 billion initiative. Challenges include finding an in-road as focus appears to be specifically on electronic health records. May be beneficial to re-connect with the NIEM Family Services domain representatives and discuss our funding quandary and explore partnering with them on Use Cases. Eric will follow-up with Jim Pingle (HS XML contact for the NIEM conference) for contact of who is heading up the Family Services domain (which includes health) for NIEM.
 - Homeland security grant programs recipients as these emphasize regional disaster management approaches as well as specifically interoperability.
- Illustrate how information gained by developing even limited research-focused data sets from various sectors can inform how the system is operating as a whole and influence public policy and service design.

- Demonstrate to funders that adopting an established protocol to de-identify data and secure privacy is beneficial to them and stakeholders.
- The work Barb is doing to identify data exchange practices using XML may lead to funding opportunities.
- Review the New Zealand method of integrated care to spur project and funding ideas. New Zealand is organized into health districts that collect/share/coordinate information across various sectors, such as homelessness, criminal justice, substance abuse, mental health, housing, food assistance, clinic records, yoga, acupuncture...Further, it was noted both New Zealand and Australia have adopted NIEM. Butch is a resource for the New Zealand approach to integrated care and will share summary information.

Nancy will coordinate a teleconference for the 3rd or 4th week in January dedicated to true brainstorming (as in all ideas, crazy or not, are welcome) on the topic of funding and Barb will facilitate the meeting. Current attendance is expected to include at the least: Alisa, Barb, Butch, Jen, and Nancy, but all are welcome to attend. If interested in attending, please contact Nancy or Alisa.

Muskegon Data Sharing Experience: Despite losing the jail diversion funding, Barb indicates other funding, as well as interest, continues and expects momentum to resume in early 2010. A white paper documenting the experience is still an expected outcome.

Identifying Data Exchange Projects: All work group members are encouraged to continue to identify data exchange projects across the country. Communities will then be asked to provide a synopsis, or Community Profile, of their experiences in data exchange that can be posted to the NHSDC HS XML portal thereby further enriching the discussion. Laura indicated after the New Year she can provide a one page synopsis of three different data exchange projects occurring in MN.

Upcoming Meetings

Work Group: Tuesday, January 5th at 4:00 PM EST

Please dial (888) 363-4734 and use access code 4718878

Vendor Survey Meeting: TBD. If interested, contact Eric or Alisa to ensure you receive related notifications.

Fund Development Meeting: TBD: If interested, contact Nancy or Alisa to ensure you receive related notifications.