

HS XML Work Group Meeting
March 2, 2010 4:00pm EST
Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Alisa West Cahill	Canavan Associates
Eric Jahn	Alexandria Consulting
Laura McLain	Wilder Research
Brigitte Pussehl	Community Technology Alliance
Nancy Shank	University of Nebraska

Agenda:

1. Try out new communication interface:
 - Committee members were able to access the TokBox interface through a link sent prior to the meeting.
 - An attempt was made to upload the meeting notes from February via slide-share, which failed both as a word document and in PDF format.
 - Callers were not able to exchange video information, as most committee members do not have a web cam or microphone.
 - No additional assessment was done of the interface.

2. Every other month pattern of meetings?
 - The work group is comprised of individuals and organizations who are volunteering their time to this effort.
 - We have active committees that meet in-between meetings.
 - There isn't always have enough time between meetings to accomplish tasks.
 - It was agreed that every other month meetings will begin immediately. The next meeting of the full work group will be Tuesday, May 4th, at 4:00pm ET unless members opt to alter this particular date as it is directly after the spring NHSDC meeting (please see item 3b for more information).

3. Building support within the human services community:
 - a. Vendor Survey:
 - Alisa is attempting to schedule a meeting date for this committee to reconvene due to low attendance at the Feb. 26th meeting and will reach out via phone. Agenda will focus on next steps and voluntary assignment of duties.
 - The objective of the vendor survey is to raise awareness among MIS customers about existing data interoperability capacities, including specific integration of various data standards, into vendor products.
 - The NHSDC Board has approved the survey concept, as well as the survey and introductory letter.
 - We may want to consider modifying the survey collection and analysis methodology to only include those vendors willing to have results individually identified (at present, the plan is to accept all responses, aggregate responses, and provide a general overview document of results to the public via NHSDC website, HS XML portal, and other appropriate avenues). If the existing plan is kept, we may want to include a talking points document for customers/communities so that they can use the results to help facilitate an informed discussion with current or future vendors re: interoperability.

- Anyone can Email Alisa with suggestions related to the survey (questions, methodology) who can pass ideas on to the committee.
- b. Spring NHSDC (April 29th/30th in Nashville):
- Eric submitted a proposal about *NIEM as an Organizing Focus for Human Services Data Integration*.
 - Who is planning on attending the conference?
 - Canavan, CDTA, Gabe, Eric.
 - Do we want to take advantage of conference time to have a work group meeting?
 - At the last conference (Fall 2009 in Providence) several new people joined the Work Group as a result of have a meeting during the conference.
 - At the last conference Jen lead a strategic planning process that helped define goals for the upcoming year.
 - The focus of the Work Group meeting could be the Vendor Survey in addition to regular agenda item discussion.
 - NHSDC occurs very close to our next meeting, which is May 4th.
 - If we have a Work Group meeting at the Conference, we could indicate on the May meeting notice and agenda that the May meeting is a recap of the meeting that took place at NHSDC.
 - We could have a call in meeting, but all agreed this may require additional coordination and still be met with technical difficulties that impede meeting success.
 - Nancy will develop a brief online survey to identify if members who are able to attend the conference are interested in participating in a Work Group and members feel about having a Work Group meeting at the conference and in May.
- c. Presenter for the March 18th Southeast Regional HMIS Collaborative Planning Committee (SERHC):
- Laura from Wilder Research and Gregg from the City of Seattle have volunteered to provide a 10 minute presentation each on the benefits and challenges of XML as it relates to HMIS (focus is on planning and policy considerations).
 - Laura provided a second Community Profile detailing XML related work in MN, which is posted to the HS XML portal:
 - Three of the large stakeholders include Community Action Programs, Catholic Charities, and the HMIS community.
4. Pursue connections to related efforts:
- a. Standards Updates (HMIS, AIRS, CAN):
- No updates on CAN or AIRS.
 - HMIS Standards – awaiting the release of the Data Standard, which will finalize the last round of draft Data Standards released in July. HS XML development is reliant on this release.
- b. NIEM:
- i. DHS Proposal Submitted:
- A group led by Nancy and Cristina submitted a proposal to the Dept. of Homeland Security in February offering to make the Disaster Client Data Standard compliant with NIEM.

- Another aspect of the proposal is the creation of a training program to raise awareness among various organizations of the benefit and mechanisms to exchange client information inter-organizational during a disaster.
 - DHS needs 30-45 days to review the proposal.
 - This could be a good opportunity for funding in support of HS XML development as much work that would go into "Niemitizing" the Disaster Client Data Standards could be applied to HS XML.
- ii. NIEM will be used as a test-bed for the Nationwide Health Information Network:
- A [press release](#) was issued in February detailing this initiative.
 - This initiative will be a good tie in with NIEM for human services because the fields they will be developing with patient data will be similar to human services encounter information.
- iii. Michelle Vidanes contact?
- New Content/New Domain manager at NIEM – Eric indicated he has contacted her predecessor Jim Pingel re: an introduction and will check back in later in the week.
- c. State CIOs – Scott Fairholm:
- Scott saw the HS XML related discussion on the NIEM Linked-In site and was recommended by Eric to join the Work Group. Scott has since joined our listserv.
 - Nancy has provided Scott a written description of our work and initiatives and requested a few minutes of his time to discuss in further detail over the phone.
 - Other "state people" from the NIEM conference may be good resources to engage as well.
- d. APHSA – Alisa knows Howard Hendrick, Cabinet Secretary for HHS in OK and current Chair of the APHSA (American Public Human Services Association):
- How can we best access APHSA, which tend to represent state-level programs, as the group has been fairly off-limits thus far?
 - Reach out to NIEM via Linked-In as some there is some cross over between NIEM and APHSA as evident in APHSA attendees at the NIEM 2009 training event:
 - Try to get contact information for everyone on the NIEM Linked-In list associated with Family Services-Eric will contact the list manager.
 - The Family Services contingent of NIEM has already established a data criterion.
 - Two key groups at the NIEM 2009 training event that are most relevant to our work:
 - Family Services Domain: Many associated with Court Family Services.
 - State Level people (i.e. SNAPs, WIC, TANF) who were talking conceptually about the need for standards in these types of programs and saying their area would be a place that the federal government should establish standards so data could be shared across agencies.
 - Try to get a list from the family services representatives in attendance at the NIEM 2009 event; identify if that group includes state level people; identify how many of these attendees participate in Linked-In.
 - Consider contacting APHSA chair if we cannot gain access with NIEM partners.
- e. Identify related state/federal data standards - Barb

- No updates... there may not be any state/federal data standards

5. Wild brainstorming group met February 23 (Jen, Butch, Barb, Alisa, Eric, Nancy):

- Fund-development group did more brainstorming and will reconvene within a month to prioritize efforts to move forward on collaboration and funding opportunities

6. Next Meeting: May 4th at 4:00 ET.