



Jeannette B. DeJesús
SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNOR
OFFICE OF HEALTH REFORM & INNOVATION
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Health Technology Work Group
Minutes
May 10, 2012

Members Present: Roderick Bremby, Victor Villagra, Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Bobbi Schmidt, Marie Smith, John Vittner, Cheryl Wamuo, Peter Zelez

Members Absent: Tia Cintron, Vanessa Kapral, Terrance Macy, Lou Polzella, Mark Raymond, Lori Reed-Fourquet, Mark Thomas, Robert Trestman

Welcome and Introductions

Victor Villagra called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Members introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes of the April 12 Meeting

Dr. Villagra made edits to the minutes from the April 12 meeting. The members then voted to approve the minutes as amended.

Convening Forum, HIT Integration Update

Dr. Villagra said that the work group is continuing its ongoing work and discussion on health technology in Connecticut. Commissioner Bremby added that the state is working on investing in health technology, and that this work group will help to provide a strategic vision. He said that the solutions to this issue are human, not technical.

Presentation and Discussion: Connecticut Agency Data Exchange (Conn-ADE)

Dr. Villagra introduced representatives of the Connecticut Agency Data Exchange (Conn-ADE) to make a presentation to the work group. Representatives included Amy Porter, Director of the Bureau of Rehabilitative Services; Scott Cleary, Principal of SMC Partners, and Mary Ann Hanley, a consultant with the Department of Economic and Community Development. Conn-ADE is a collaborative project involving the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), the Department of Children and Families, and several other state agencies and offices. The goals of this project are:

- To make available individual consumer data and content to improve case management, cost effectiveness, and quality of services; and
- To collect, aggregate, and organize data to deliver information for research, program evaluation, and policy guidance.

The Conn-ADE representatives discussed the population which is served by multiple agencies included in this project, and gave an example of a case in which an individual would have been better served by improved data sharing and collaboration between agencies. They then described the function of the Conn-ADE system, which would allow partner agencies to:

- Share data related to employment outcomes among agencies, and additional client data in the future;
- Facilitate cross-agency reporting, data sharing, client tracking and research among various agency data systems; and
- Provide a method for agencies to utilize information located in other agency data systems to inform program goals and measure outcomes.

Conn-ADE representatives then answered questions from work group members. Bobbi Schmidt asked whether the current problems with inter-agency data sharing were due to issues with technology or with agency processes. Conn-ADE representatives responded that the problems could be solved by improved technology, which would also help to make process improvements. Ms. Schmidt also asked whether all agencies would need to use a standardized format and universal identifiers for consumer data. Conn-ADE representatives responded that data would need to be standardized, and that a universal type of personal identifier would need to be used. Peter Zelez asked about what type of entity would control this proposed data sharing system. Conn-ADE representatives responded that it would be up to the commissioners of the agencies to determine the entity that would have control of this system. Commissioner Bremby mentioned that this type of system would create efficiencies for consumers with the highest rates of utilization of state social services.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10am.