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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

**Health Technology Work Group**  
**Minutes**  
June 14, 2012

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**Members Present:** Roderick Bremby, Tim Deschenes-Desmond, David Gilbertson, Vanessa Kapral, Terrence Macy, Mark Raymond, Bobbi Schmidt, Marie Smith, John Vittner, Cheryl Wamuo, Peter Zelez

**Members Absent:** Victor Villagra, Tia Cintron, Lou Polzella, Mark Thomas, Robert Trestman

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**Welcome and Introductions**

Roderick Bremby called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Members introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes of the May 10 Meeting**

The members voted to approve the minutes of the May 10 meeting.

**Discussion of Health Technology Work Group White Paper**

Members discussed a draft of a white paper, produced by the work group, which contains recommendations on reforming health technology in Connecticut. Members received copies of the draft prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Bremby began the discussion by saying that the white paper is the result of the work group's discussions and efforts. The recommendations in the white paper propose a structure to coordinate health technology in Connecticut. A final version of the paper will be presented to the Health Care Cabinet for inclusion in its report this fall.

Mark Raymond said that the white paper contains a great deal of substance, and suggested that an executive summary be added. He also suggested the inclusion of a multi-year plan for carrying out the recommendations.

There was a brief discussion about the second section of the white paper: Current Status of the State Health and Human Services Information Technology. Vanessa Kapral said that this section should include information about the integrated eligibility program which is being worked on by several state agencies. Mr. Raymond said that electronic health records programs in several departments should be added as well. Cheryl Wamuo suggested adding language indicating that the list of current health IT programs in the white paper is not all-inclusive.

Commissioner Bremby then asked members to discuss the recommendations section of the white paper. Much of the discussion focused on the proposed health information technology coordination structure, which would include a state health IT coordinator. A similar position currently exists in the Department of Public Health, but under this proposal, it would become independent and work with several state agencies. Peter Zelez asked if legislation would be necessary to make these changes. Commissioner Bremby replied that he thought legislation would not be necessary, and that these changes could be made by the administration. Terrence Macy suggested that the paper should more clearly discuss inter-agency data sharing. John Vittner said that coordination efforts should include policy development and implementation.

Bobbi Schmidt said that the proposed health technology coordination structure may require more funding than just the position currently at DPH. Commissioner Bremby replied that this structure would need additional resources from the state agencies which are part of this system. Peter Zelez recommended that the health IT coordination structure should have its own dedicated funding stream. Ms. Wamuo suggested approaching health insurance companies to provide this funding. Mr. Raymond added that other entities may be able to provide funding as well.

Marie Smith asked about the role of the Health Information Technology Exchange of Connecticut (HITE-CT) in the proposed structure. Commissioner Bremby replied that HITE-CT would be involved in coordination efforts. David Gilbertson recommended that the work group look at the legislation which established HITE-CT and other health technology programs. The legislation may need to be revised or updated to incorporate the policy changes outlined in the white paper. Tim Deschenes-Desmond suggested that the paper emphasize that this proposal seeks to improve coordination, rather than establishing a new bureaucracy.

Commissioner Bremby thanked the members for their input, and said that a revised white paper would be presented at the July work group meeting.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment at the meeting.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10am.