



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

Health Technology Work Group Minutes
April 12, 2012

Members Present: Roderick Bremby, Victor Villagra, Tim Deschenes-Desmond, Terrance Macy, Mark Raymond, Lori Reed-Fourquet, Bobbi Schmidt, Cheryl Wamuo, Peter Zelez

Members Absent: Hari Chanda, Tia Cintron, Vanessa Kapral, Lou Polzella, Marie Smith, Mark Thomas, Robert Trestman, John Vittner

Welcome and Introductions

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

Approval of Minutes of the March 8 Meeting

Dr. Villagra and Mark Raymond made edits to the minutes from the March 8 meeting. The members then voted to approve the minutes.

HIT Work Force Development

Dr. Villagra introduced Linda Guzzo, Dean of Continuing Education at Capital Community College (CCC), to make a presentation about CCC's Health Information Technology (HIT) workforce development program. CCC is part of a national consortium of community colleges with HIT programs. CCC's program has a core curriculum and two separate tracks: engineering and consulting. Each track prepares students for specific careers. The program has strong partnerships with government, hospitals, and other entities involved in HIT. Incoming students are required to have at least an associate's degree as well as professional experience in either health care or information technology. Of the 108 students who have graduated from this program, about 80% are employed, re-employed, or have been promoted in HIT-related jobs.

CCC has just received their third year of funding for the program, and the program's fifth cohort will begin this May.

Dr. Villagra asked if there were any questions from work group members for Ms. Guzzo. Commissioner Bremby mentioned that DSS is looking to hire community health workers, and asked if the HIT program provided training for them. Ms. Guzzo responded that the program provides training to a broad range of people in various health professions. Mr. Raymond asked how the program is funded. Ms. Guzzo responded that the program was 100% federally funded for the first two years, and now receives 50% of its funding from the federal government. The remainder of the funding comes from the state and from tuition. Mr. Raymond also asked if the program has connections with software developers. Ms. Guzzo responded that she is working on building those relationships. She also mentioned that the program needed better software for students. Cheryl Wamuo asked if the program works with insurance companies. Ms. Guzzo responded that the program needs to build partnerships with insurers. Ms. Wamuo also asked if the program offers online courses. Ms. Guzzo responded that the national curriculum is not online, so the program could not offer online courses at this time. Dr. Villagra concluded this discussion by saying that the state needs strategic planning to build the HIT workforce.

Development Plan Update

Dr. Villagra gave a brief presentation on the work group's progress. He mentioned that the group still needs to conduct an inventory of existing technologies. He said that the group's objectives also include convening a forum for stakeholders, integrating HIT systems, and maximizing the value of HIT investment to consumers.

Commissioner Bremby said that DCF should make a presentation to the work group about its IT systems. He also said that the group needs to have a broader conversation about the structure of the forum and future policy decisions. Ms. Wamuo suggested that the commissioners of the relevant agencies should talk with each other about integrating IT systems. Commissioner Bremby responded that the commissioners of agencies that deal with health and human services meet monthly and have begun to discuss this topic.

Laurie Graham mentioned that she met recently with representatives of the Connecticut Agency Data Exchange, who had good ideas about integration of IT systems. She suggested that the work group invite them to make a presentation at a future meeting. Commissioner Bremby responded that it would be helpful for the work group to hear from the Connecticut Agency Data Exchange.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at the meeting.