



September 14, 2012

Mr. Cory Verblen
Communication Manager
Illinois Office of Health Information Technology
JRTC 100 W. Randolph, Suite 2-201
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Mr. Verblen,

This letter serves as a notice of our intent to respond to the HIE White Space Grant Program. We, at the Chicago Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (**CHITREC**) in association with the founding team of the Medical Research Analytics and Informatics Alliance (**MRAIA**), are actively supporting the adoption of electronic health records in primary care throughout the Chicago area. Our primary goal is to assist providers in achieving Meaningful Use under the federal government's Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record incentive programs. We advocate ILHIE's goals of increasing the utilization of health information exchange, which we believe will result in improved patient care and health outcomes.

We collaboratively propose to connect a portion (at least 50 eligible Illinois health care providers in a minimum of five unaffiliated Illinois white space entities) of the primary care provider healthcare entities affiliated with CHITREC (complete list attached as Appendix A), recognized as one or more of the following; physician practices with 10 or fewer physicians, community health centers (including federally qualified health centers) and critical access hospitals, within the one year time period from award date.

We will use the ILHIE network to initially connect white space entities to HIE services. We envision partnering with one or more IT solutions companies to assist us in connecting CHITREC affiliated health care entities directly to the ILHIE network. We selected our partners as bringing key expertise and tools to enable us to efficiently deliver services within the short time frame of the proposal and attach their support letters affirming their willingness to contribute.

We have seen firsthand that Electronic Health Records integrated with a Health Information Exchange can have a significant impact on improving patient care and reducing healthcare costs.^{1,2} We are active partners with the ILHIE Direct initiative, educating providers about the benefits of using secure messaging services. In particular, we appreciate the focus on the "white space" providers, which are often overlooked in HIE efforts, and represent a significant focus population for our existing EHR implementation efforts.

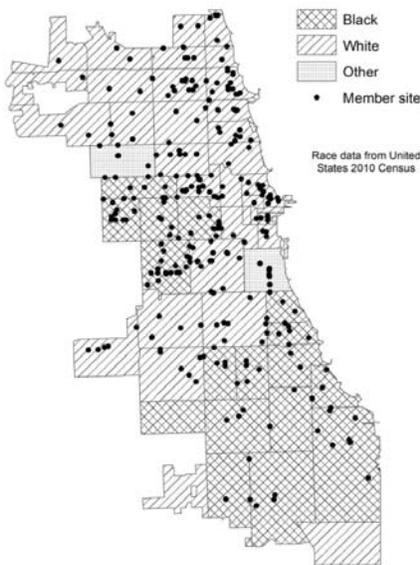
We propose providing education and direct technical assistance, to connect white space entities with the ILHIE network with an initial focus on setting up bidirectional interfaces between EHR enabled sites and ILHIE, which we believe will also facilitate many of our practices to achieve Meaningful Use. Early in the development of our regional HIE, the ability to connect to core HIE services such as the Enterprise Master Patient Index, and Record Locator Service, will provide immediate value to identify when patients may have existing records at other healthcare institutions. We anticipate

additional early use cases including public health reporting, and more efficient return of laboratory results.

CHITREC is a non-profit entity (Northwestern University) and registered with **FEIN number 36-2167817**. Following is the brief summary of CHITREC’s work with health care providers across Chicago.

CHITREC is funded by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT and is housed at Northwestern University’s Chicago campus. As the PI of the CHITREC project, Dr. Kho has built a team with extensive experience helping providers in a broad range of practice settings modify their practice activities to successfully incorporate an EHR system. To date, the CHITREC team has engaged over 1600 primary care providers, including 100% of the Federally Qualified Health Centers in Chicago, with over 800 providers now live on an EHR, and over 100 having achieved Meaningful Use of their EHR systems (Figure 1). We anticipate that 600 to 800 of the health care providers in our program will have achieved Meaningful Use of their EHRs by the end of 2012, including all of the CHITREC-enrolled practices who have agreed to participate in this project. Our practices range in size from solo providers to multi-specialty practices and include all the primary care specialties, as well as dental clinics, and specialty clinics. CHITREC providers use over 22 different EHR products, and notably five of the EHR vendors represent 60% of the community practices. Complete details on CHITREC practice sizes and distribution can be found in Appendix A. These practices represent a tremendous diversity of EHR enabled practices for potential involvement in this project, important for generalizability of our findings.

The purpose, vision, mission, and goals of CHITREC (<http://chitrec.org/about/purpose/>) emphasize on the commitment, we as a team encompass to improve delivery of care by building on to Chicago healthcare IT infrastructure. We are constantly striving to provide education, assistance and the tools required by healthcare entities in reaching their meaningful use measures.



CHITREC staff provides direct, hands-on assistance in the practices, and as part of an initial analysis, assist practices in mapping out their existing and post-EHR workflows around relevant areas, such as computerized provider order entry (CPOE), to help the practices adjust to the use of new technology to support patient care and to identify potential improvement opportunities. This experience, and the trust between CHITREC staff and providers, is vital to successfully effecting a change within the practice setting.

Our efforts have yielded trusted relationships with practices throughout Chicago as well as EHR vendors, local and national laboratory systems, and local professional organizations such as the Chicago Medical Society, and City and State Public Health Departments. We anticipate leveraging these relationships to connect CHITREC affiliated white space healthcare entities to ILHIE network.

Figure 1: Map of CHITREC member sites and majority race in Chicago (606xx) zip codes



We intend to partner with Medical Research Analytics and Informatics Alliance (MRAIA) for their expertise in health care informatics and collaborate with Global Technology Solutions Inc. for technical expertise on connecting source (provider) EHR to ILHIE network. MRAIA is currently an LLC but has applied for non-profit status, with application currently pending. Should MRAIA achieve non-profit status prior to grant submission, they will serve as the lead organization on our proposal. Attached are the support letters from our partners. Complete details about the agreement and service contract will be furnished at the time of grant submission.

Listed below are all the key personnel and institutions that will be participating in the project. Thank you very much for this exciting opportunity. We look forward to receiving the grant application.

Principal Investigator(s):

Abel Kho, MD

Northwestern University

Principle Investigator, Chicago Health IT Regional Extension Center

750 N. Lake Shore Drive, 9th Floor

Chicago, IL 60611

312.503.2986

Bala Hota, MD

Chief Medical Information Officer and Chief Information Officer

Cook County Health and Hospitals System

Associate Professor, Rush University Medical Center

Chicago, IL

Key Investigators:

Satyender Goel

Sharad Varshney

Participating Institutions:

CHITREC, Northwestern University (Lead, pending MRAIA non-profit approval)

Medical Research Analytics and Informatics Alliance (MRAIA)

Global Technology Solutions Inc.

1. **Kho AN**, Woodward-Hagg HK, Hare S, Dexter PR Md, Doebbeling B. A Citywide Electronic Infection Control Network: Successfully Translating Data into Action. AMIA Annu Symp Proc. 2007 Oct;2007(2007):1199. PMID: 18694288
2. **Kho AN**, Lemmon L, Commiskey M, Wilson SJ, McDonald CJ. Use of a Regional Health Information Exchange to Detect Crossover of Patients with MRSA between Urban Hospitals. Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association 2008;15:212-216.



Appendix A

Organization Name	# of PCPs	# of Providers at Practice	# of Practice Sites	Federally Qualified Health
Type: Community Health Center (22 records)				
PrimeCare Community Health, Inc.	12	12	4	1
Planned Parenthood of Illinois	25	26	7	0
Mercy Family Health Center	6	6	1	1
ACCESS Community Health Network	129	209	52	1
Howard Brown Health Center	11	25	2	1
PCC Community Wellness Center	48	108	12	1
Erie Family Health Center	77	104	20	1
Friend Family Health Center, Inc.	40	62	9	1
Heartland International Health Center	17	24	8	1
Alivio Medical Center	24	26	6	1
TCA Health, Inc	8	14	1	1
Heartland Health Outreach	10	13	1	1
The Night Ministry	3	4	1	0
Lawndale Christian Health Center	57	71	12	1
Near North Health Service Corporation	31	43	7	1
Circle Family HealthCare Network	14	19	5	1
Indian American Medical Association Charitable Foundation Clinic	10	14	1	0
Centro de Salud Esperanza	7	14	1	0
Chicago Family Health Center	26	29	5	1
Beloved Community Family Wellness Center	4	5	1	1
Asian Human Services Family Health Center	7	7	1	1
Christian Community Health Center	14	18	4	1
Type: Private Practice 1 - 10 (98 records)				
JIL Medical Consultants	3	3	1	0
Elsie R. Walker, MD	1	1	1	0
For Women, LTD	1	1	1	0
Pilsen Pediatrics	2	2	1	0
Chicago Women's Health, Ltd	2	2	1	0
P & K Patel MD SC	3	3	1	0
Eduardo Encinas, MD	1	1	1	0
Pierce Pediatric Associates	1	1	1	0
My Pediatrics, LLC	1	1	1	0
Infectious Disease Consultants	4	4	1	0
Sabah Khan, MD	1	1	1	0
Lakeshore Medical Consultants	1	1	1	0
David D. Deutsch, MD	1	1	1	0
Millennium Park Medical Associates	1	1	1	0
Quality Primary Care	1	1	1	0
Streetsville Internal Medicine, LLC	1	1	1	0
Mukesh Patel MD	1	1	1	0
Sorin-Pitts, LLC	3	3	1	0
Mayfair Family Care, SC	2	2	1	0
E & L Medical Center, Ltd	1	1	1	0
Sheldon Edelson, MD	1	1	1	0
Michigan Avenue Internists	8	10	1	0
Pitu Punjabi MD	1	3	1	0
Win-Care Medical Consultants	1	1	1	0
Family Doctors/Family Healthcare	2	2	1	0
Wilco Family Practice	1	1	1	0
Family Care Associates	3	3	1	0
Montrose Clinic	1	1	1	0
Irene Silva, MD, SC	1	1	1	0
Northwestern Specialists for Women	8	8	1	0
John Venetos MD, Ltd	1	1	1	0
Northwest Medical Foundation, Inc	1	1	1	0
Tahir Niazi M.D. S.C.	3	3	1	0
Boycin Medical Clinic	1	1	1	0
Shehzad Ali, MD	1	1	1	0



Garcia Life Partners	2	2	1	0
Master Care Health Center	1	1	1	0
May Medical Center	2	2	1	0
Mount Carmel Medical Center	1	1	1	0
Nancy Gracin MD SC	1	1	1	0
Argyle Medical Center	1	1	1	0
John B. Lee, MD	1	1	1	0
Broadway Medical Office	2	2	1	0
Lake Shore Obstetrics and Gynecology	8	8	1	0
Martin Szanto, MD	1	1	1	0
Internal Medicine Affiliates, SC	2	2	1	0
Rogelio Liboon MD SC	1	1	1	0
Omni Health PC	5	6	2	0
Family Medical Center	2	2	1	0
Primary Care Medical Associates Ltd	5	5	1	0
James R. Herron, MD, Ltd	1	1	1	0
Tilahun Medical Group	2	2	1	0
Saint Anthony Hospital Employed	5	7	1	0
Elizabeth Cruz, MD	1	1	1	0
Helenaída Ortega, MD	1	1	1	0
Shirley Roy MD, SC	1	1	1	0
Giokaris Medical Center	1	1	1	0
Sabree Medical Services	1	1	1	0
Karin Fiedler MD	1	1	1	0
Hope at Calvary Clinic	1	1	1	0
Dejean Wellness	1	1	1	0
Kash and Rudek Medical Associates	2	2	1	0
Young Family Health Associates	4	4	1	0
Sripathy Rao Pediatrics	1	1	1	0
Seby Medical Center	1	1	1	0
Aliaga Medical Center, SC	1	1	1	0
Wong, Ho and Sheih MDs	5	5	1	0
Clara Akhigbe, MD, SC	1	1	1	0
Tellez Medical Inc.	1	1	1	0
Peds Care, S.C.	1	1	1	0
Hiba Pediatrics	1	1	1	0
Sheridan Medical Center	1	1	1	0
Selvam Ltd	2	2	1	0
Lincona Medical Associates, Ltd	2	2	1	0
Hispanic Regional Clinic	1	1	1	0
Lewanzer Lassiter, MD	1	1	1	0
Angel Health Care Services, S.C.	2	2	1	0
Tyco Medical Clinic	1	1	1	0
Chicago Women's Health Group	1	1	1	0
Maria L. Reyes MD SC	1	1	1	0
Northwestern OBGYN Consultants	8	8	1	0
Associates in Internal Medicine, Ltd.	7	8	1	0
Taylor Med	1	1	1	0
Child and Adolescent Health Associates, Ltd	8	8	1	0
Petham Muthuswamy MD	1	1	1	0
Internal Medicine Associates	8	8	1	0
Northwestern Women's Health Associates - Stanley Friedell	1	1	1	0
Dr. Henry Danko	1	1	1	0
Marc S Feldstein MD	1	1	1	0
Elisabeth I Wallner MD SC	1	1	1	0
Nirmala A. Shah , M.D.	1	1	1	0
Pompilia Tudoriu, MD SC	1	1	1	0
Pediatric Clinic LTD	4	4	1	0
Northwestern Internists	10	11	1	0
Raby Institute for Integrative Medicine at Northwestern	1	2	1	0
Youn Rhee, MD	1	1	1	0
Doctors Unlimited Service Corp	1	1	1	0
Alpha Medical Center	1	2	1	0
Grand Totals (120 records)				



Letter of Support
for HIE White Space Grant Program

With this letter we would like to express the interest and support on behalf of my organization, Lawndale Christian Health Center, for our collaboration with the CHITREC (Chicago Health IT Regional Extension Center) initiative of connecting white space health care entities to Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE) Network.

We agree with the CHITREC goal of supporting Illinois' progress in increasing the utilization of HIE, including ILHIE network, to support improved patient care and health outcomes and increase the number of providers able to achieve Meaningful Use under the federal government's Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Programs.

We anticipate education, assistance and facilitation of tools from CHITREC to implement/use health information technology, including electronic health records and HIE services/solutions. We assure cooperation and availability of our staff for the activities planned by CHITREC, to achieve their goal of connecting healthcare entities to HIE network.

Bruce W. Rowell, M.D.

Medical Director of Clinical Quality

Lawndale Christian Health Center

3860 W. Ogden Avenue

Chicago, IL 60623

E-mail: brucerowell@lawndale.org

Phone: 872-588-3103

Date: September 12, 2012

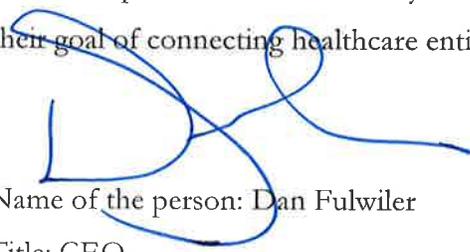


Letter of Support
for HIE White Space Grant Program

With this letter we would like to express the interest and support on behalf of my organization, Centro de Salud Esperanza for our collaboration with the CHITREC (Chicago Health IT Regional Extension Center) initiative of connecting white space health care entities to Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE) Network.

We agree with the CHITREC goal of supporting Illinois' progress in increasing the utilization of HIE, including ILHIE network, to support improved patient care and health outcomes and increase the number of providers able to achieve Meaningful Use under the federal government's Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Programs.

We anticipate education, assistance and facilitation of tools from CHITREC to implement/use health information technology, including electronic health records and HIE services/solutions. We assure cooperation and availability of our staff for the activities planned by CHITREC, to achieve their goal of connecting healthcare entities to HIE network.



Name of the person: Dan Fulwiler

Title: CEO.

Name of the organization: Centro de Salud Esperana

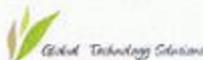
Address: 2001 S. California Ave., Chicago, IL 60608

Email: Dan@esperanzachicago.org

Phone: 773.584.6200

Fax: 773.376.8845

Date: September 14, 2012



LETTER OF SUPPORT

To whomsoever it may concern

This letter is our affirmation and commitment to support Chicago Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center's (CHITREC) application for HIE White Space Grant Program. We intend to partner with CHITREC in their initiative to connect healthcare providers EHR to ILHIE network and willing to provide technical expertise to build interface for this secure connection. We understand the scope of our work will be detailed at the time of full grant application submission.

Global Technology Solutions' was established in 2007 and have IT professionals with more than 10 to 15 years of web development experience, In this short tenure, GTS has created 3 healthcare and several mental health related products and working with multiple public sector departments to help customizing their solutions. Several of our software are in production from many years.

GTS provides a full spectrum of quality IT services. With deep domain expertise in Government programs, IT management expertise and specialized technical expertise combined to provide an integrated service offering based upon a proven record of successfully serving our customers for almost five years.

Our services come at a guarantee of complete satisfaction and fast 24/7 customer support for the providers. We look forward to be a valuable partner in this initiative.

Date: 09/13/2012

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharad Va" with a horizontal line extending to the right.

SHARAD VARSHNEY

CEO, Global Technology Solutions', Inc.

821 Hawkcrest Circle, Sacramento, CA 95835

Email: Sharad@Globaltsinc.com

Phone: 916-669-8691

Fax: 916-244-7039

MEDICAL RESEARCH ANALYTICS
AND INFORMATICS ALLIANCE

Letter of Support
for HIE White Space Grant Program

We, the members of Medical Research Analytics and Informatics Alliance (MRAIA) are determined to collaborate with CHITREC (Chicago Health IT Regional Extension Center) in connecting white space health care entities to Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE) network. We aim to bring depth of knowledge and experience in managing healthcare information technology to connect providers Electronic Health Record system to IL Health Information Exchange network.

We are thought leaders in the industry and have been providing technical expertise in health IT sector. We have taken up many successful initiatives in the past including establishment of Illinois public health node. We look forward to working with CHITREC and partners to successfully achieve this initiative.

September 14, 2012



Bala Hota
Medical Research Analytics and Informatics Alliance
Address:....106 Calendar Ave, # 112.....
.....LaGrange, IL 60525.....
Email:.....bala.hota@gmail.com.....