

**Telehealth Work Group  
Meeting Notes  
October 5, 2010**

Attendance (in person and by phone):

Kay Berdusis	Children’s Memorial Hospital
Diego Estrella	Illinois Office of Health Information Technology
Bob Peterhans	3NetWise
Sunil Hazaray	American Telemedicine Association
Alan Kraus	Illinois Rural Health Net
Mary McGinnis	Illinois Office of Health Information Technology
Pat Schou	Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network
Deborah Seale	Community Member
Kelly Smith	University of Illinois at Chicago
Judith Storfjell	University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Nursing
Wesley Valdes	University of Illinois at Chicago/Office of Health Information Technology
Laura Zarembo	Illinois Office of Health Information Technology

**Mission Statement** – The work group provided some feedback about the proposed mission statement. Some members thought that the statement was too general, while others felt that it was appropriate and that the group’s focus should be on identifying action items and priorities.

The work group identified a general need for cultural change as a large obstacle that would need to be addressed moving forward. The group also felt that tracking health outcomes, comprehending the economics of telehealth, and the lack of understanding of how telehealth fits into the current delivery model were all issues that the group should engage.

It was decided that activities #1, 6, 7, 12, and 13 would be good strategic goals and a suggestion was made to make them a top priority. There was a discussion about the distinction between “raising awareness vs. achieve consensus”. Members came to the conclusion that these two discrete and separate concepts could not happen simultaneously and would have to be achieved in some kind of sequential order.

**Work Group Priorities:** Thanks to Kay Berdusis for providing this outline of potential priorities for review by the Work Group:

Category 1: State-of-the Art (including Obstacles)

- Document current telehealth and remote patient monitoring activity in Illinois
- Identify obstacles for development of quality telehealth programs in Illinois
- Promote technical interoperability, portability and scalability for telehealth and remote patient monitoring such that information will be part of HIE

- Review telehealth and related policies and ensure that they are understandable, clearly explained, and available to the public
- Work with academic institutions in Illinois that train clinical providers to integrate education of telehealth skills and knowledge into their curriculum.
- Develop an online resource website to increase availability of telehealth and related information.

#### Category 2: Marketing

- Raise awareness among government agencies, health care providers, policy makers, insurers and consumers about telehealth and remote patient monitoring
- Serve as channel for bringing related telehealth issues forward
- Support the exchange of ideas and dissemination of cost-effective models, best practices and lessons learned

#### Category 3: Strategic Planning and Active Collaboration

- Identify opportunities for promoting the advancement of telehealth and remote patient monitoring
- Encourage interagency and public/private sector collaborations
- Assist in the development of a statewide strategic plan for telehealth as one aspect of the state's overall health information exchange strategic plan
- Foster the implementation of coordinated, sustainable telehealth initiatives

#### Category 4: Education

- Encourage training institutions to adopt education about telehealth and health information exchange into their curriculum
- Discuss necessity of telehealth training for providers already in practice to learn the skill sets important to delivering telehealth services.
- Work with academic institutions in Illinois that train clinical providers to integrate education of telehealth skills and knowledge into their curriculum.

The work group discussed funding and strategies for reckoning with the goals listed above.

The members subsequently reviewed a list of definitions of telehealth-related concepts; this was an outstanding item from last meeting.

Members were reminded about the upcoming ATA meeting to be held in Chicago on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Next Meeting:**

The next work group meeting is on November 9th.

Meeting adjourned.