

Mr. Cory Verblen  
Communications Manager  
Illinois Office of Health Information Technology  
Email: cory.verblen@illinois.gov

September 13, 2012

Re: HIE White Space Grant Program- Letter of Intent  
Southern Illinois Hospital Services (also known as Southern Illinois Healthcare)  
FEIN: 37-0618939

Dear Mr. Verblen:

On behalf of the underserved healthcare entities in Southern Illinois, Southern Illinois Healthcare is pleased to submit a letter of intent as the grant applicant to comply with all OHIT' requirements in the Illinois Office of Health Information Technology's- HIE White Space Grant Program

Over the past three and one half years, SIH and regional partners have invested and jointly worked with OHIT on the planning, organization, and development of an HIE to coordinate care delivery across Southern Illinois. Through this process, a commitment of a majority of stakeholder organizations within our Medical Trading Area, was secured to participate in a health information exchange that will operate as a component of the state-level health information exchange.

After successfully concluding the planning process across all six domains, SIH continued its work by putting plans into operation. The organization conducted a rigorous selection process- culminating in the selection and implementation of a comprehensive HIE system. The HIE system is live and in operation today. The HIE is being utilized by providers for the secure electronic exchange of health information from certified electronic health records systems and structured health data in accordance with nationally recognized technical standards.

The proposed program plan achieves OHIT's purpose of providing HIE Services to underserved "White Space" healthcare entities. Southern Illinois represents a significant proportion of underserved and rural providers across our large geographic area. An award under this program will catalyze and accelerate the expansion of these HIE services, as well as connect the SIH HIE to IL HIE.

From the current base of HIE users, SIH and multiple partners will scale our HIE services 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 Records Incentive Programs.

The vision, established 3½ years ago continues to guide these efforts. When healthcare is delivered in Southern Illinois, EHRs are used interactively by all caregivers at the point of care which:

- are interoperable with all relevant data sources,
- compliment the caregiver with a body of knowledge and clinical tools,
- are accessible by patients and other providers,
- support the practice of Evidence Based Medicine, and
- enable national/state quality measures and reporting

## 1. Scope of the proposal

A comprehensive list of the licensed health care providers, in which unaffiliated white space entities will be connected to HIE services, are listed on pages 4-5, while Letters of Support are in **Attachment A**.

SIH will connect these white space entities to the SIH HIE Service which will in turn be connected the ILHIE network.

**a. Identify and describe the HIE service/solution:**

The HIE chosen through the selection process is the NextGen HIE 8.0 system. It is hosted and supported locally and was selected based upon its robust HIE capabilities including:

- EMPI
- Centralized Systems Architecture
- Web Portal
- Integration Engine
- Secure Messaging
- Administrative Tools
- Security and Identity Management
- Patient Portal
- Analytics

**b. Verify Direct-compliant:**

SIH verifies that this HIE service/solution is Direct-compliant or will be Direct-compliant by the time we begin connecting white space entities to that service. The date that SIH HIE will begin providing Direct-compliant services is contingent upon this grant award date with submission on October 26, 2012 and a grant agreement with the State of Illinois. Please Note: NextGen is planning to be Direct Compliant in their next release which is scheduled for March, 2013.

**2. Connect to IL HIE**

Physicians and health care entities such as mental health providers, FQHCs/Community Health Centers, etc. will utilize this HIE service/solution (other than the ILHIE network) to initially connect white space entities, and will develop an implementation plan to connect the ILHIE, defined as full operational integration with the ILHIE master directories and other statewide services.

**3. Assist entities to utilize HIE services in the delivery of care**

Project staff will assist connected white space entities in utilizing the SIH HIE services in the delivery of care. SIH will implement HIE services with white space entities providing the necessary technical, training, and on-going support services. Providers, with the appropriate privacy and security controls in place, will first search and positively identify their patient with a “community view” of their patient’s health information. The HIE serves as central point of exchange between hospitals, physicians, and other caregivers in the region. The HIE may be used for referral processes to connected providers and in addition, secure clinical messaging will enable providers to further coordinate care throughout the area. The intent is to enable white space entities to:

- Achieve Meaningful Use and receive financial incentives
- Support transition to greater care coordination
- Prepare for future payment models
- Simplify practice administration and workflow
- Improve patient engagement

**4. Experience**

SIH is an existing Illinois-based incorporated organization providing not-for-profit services or functions related to health care, and has experience with health information technology, and is classified as a 501(c)3.

Southern Illinois Healthcare's Innovative Technology Services (ITS) are the primary resources leading the delivery of HIE services. ITS staff of over 70 FTEs has tremendous experience in the planning, implementation and support of hospital, physician, and ancillary systems technology. ITS service lines include IT Infrastructure (hosts the HIE, hospital, ambulatory, and other systems), Customer Support (training, help desk, and on-going support), Physician Services (EHR system specialists), Hospital Services (EHR and other hospital system and integration specialists), and Process Innovation (workflow and process improvement). SIH ITS is led by David Holland, VP/CIO, who has been an active participant with regional HIE's and ILHIE.

Southern Illinois Healthcare and the twelve regional community partners have a long-standing history of collaboration. In order to survive and thrive today, area medical providers have learned the importance of harnessing collaboration to leverage collective resources in order to create and improve existing programs and services within the Illinois Delta Region.

## **5. Organizations with which we will partner to execute our proposal.**

A comprehensive listing of eligible health care entities and their licensed health care providers is provided on pages 4-5. Included as partners in this proposal are physician practices with 10 or fewer physicians; community health centers/federally qualified health centers; rural health clinics; outpatient behavioral health providers; critical access hospitals; and dental practices.

In summary, this Letter of Intent will meet or exceed the purpose and requirements of OHIT. SIH HIE will provide Direct-compliant HIE services to all white space entities identified in its proposal within six months of grant award date and ensure that all white space entities are connected to the ILHIE network within one year of grant award date.

In addition, SIH HIE will work with OHIT on a connection to the ILHIE network, defined as fully operational integrated with the ILHIE master directories and other statewide services. SIH staff will provide technical assistance and training to health care providers in white space entities to connect them to HIE services and to accelerate their utilization of health information exchange.

A comprehensive work plan will be submitted within 30 days of notice of award date and SIH HIE will enter into a data sharing agreement with the ILHIE Authority. Finally SIH will execute and enter into a grant agreement with the State of Illinois and submit quarterly reports.

If you have any questions or need clarification please feel free to contact me. We look forward to submitting a full application.

Sincerely,

*Dave Holland, VP/CIO*

Dave Holland  
VP/CIO  
Southern Illinois Healthcare

Enclosures

**Unaffiliated White Space Entities and Licensed Health Care Providers within Each**

1. Harrisburg Medical Center: 5 Licensed Health Care Providers
  1. Robert D. Hodson- 036129507
  2. Kimball Ewell, MD- 036047617
  3. Andrea K. Miller, MD- 036111146
  4. James O Alexander, MD- 036081824
  5. Thomas J. Bucinski, MD- 036069595
  
2. Primary Care Group of Harrisburg: 9 Licensed Health Care Providers:
  6. Matthew Winkelman, MD- 036112963
  7. Larry Jones, MD- 036055993
  8. Steven Knight, MD- 036062428
  9. Roger Watters, MD- 036062428
  10. Adam Vargo, MD- 0361187321
  11. Shannon Rider, MD- 036105880
  12. Blaine Eubanks, MD- 036127151
  13. Vinay Mehta, MD- 036047339
  14. Brahm Jyot, MD- 036123282
  
3. Community Health and Emergency Services, Inc.: 26- Licensed Health Care Providers:
  15. Alex Alvarez, MD- 036125789
  16. Angela Barns, RDH- 020010540
  17. Frank Becker, MD- 036035667
  18. Randal Bell, DMD- 019015346
  19. Scott Bietsch, DMD- 019028399
  20. John Boget, LCSW- 149005210
  21. James Bowman, DMD- 019021859
  22. Melanie Chapman, ANP- 041393080
  23. Timothy Coogan, PA- 085001873
  24. Alicia Cremeens, PA- 085003579
  25. Maclaravel Christe, MD- 036121657
  26. Christine Davis, ANP- 209004159
  27. Ruth Dodd, RDH- 020005964
  28. Sherry Jones, MD- 036093140
  29. Kevin Kays, DMD- 019015730
  30. Maureen Klemme, ANP- 209002402
  31. Courtney Ledbetter, PA- 085001657
  32. Anna Little, IM- 036129821
  33. Christian Rudolph, MD- 0360882682
  34. James Schwab, MD- 036092970
  35. Ronald Slatick, MD- 016004571
  36. Michelle Sourbis, RDH- 020010045
  37. David Stricklin, MD- 036062939
  38. Kathy Taylor, ANP- 209001075
  39. Gemo Wong, MD- 036042845
  40. Kirk Wong, MD- 036106344

4. The H Group: 6- Licensed Health Care Providers:
  41. Kathryn Davis, LCSW- 149.013758
  42. Tania McDowell, LCSW- 149.014705
  43. Shelby Seegers-Schafer, LCSW- 149.013274
  44. James Tuck, LCSW- 149.003865
  45. Mary Gray, RN- 041.142634
  46. Christine Rion, RN- 041.292800
  
5. Marshall Browning Hospital: 3- Licensed Health Care Providers
  47. Gladstone A. Tucker, MD- 036119330
  48. Beth A. Bigham, MD- 036079733
  49. Felicia D. Kimbrough, FNP- 209007991
  
6. Murphysboro Health Center: 5 Licensed Health Care Providers
  50. Jennifer Bobell, MD- 036.110131
  51. Clare Fadden, MD- 036.111461
  52. Alex Farrido-Zambrano, MD- 036.130699
  53. Jeffrey Ripperda, MD- 036-116271
  54. Todd Smith, MD- 036.111462
  
7. Southern Illinois Respiratory Disease Clinic: 2 Licensed Health Care Providers
  55. Dani Tazbaz, MD- 036.111031
  56. Parviz Sanjabi, MD- 036.051114
  
8. Shawnee Health Care Carbondale: 3- Licensed Health Care Providers
  57. Rakesh Chandra, MD- 036.093240
  58. Darlene Lutchka, MD- 036.112428
  59. Aaron Newcomb, DO- 036.119399
  
9. Adolescent Health Center: 1- Licensed Health Care Provider
  60. Janet Robinson, MD- 036.061125
  
10. Carterville Family Practice Center: 2- Licensed Health Care Providers
  61. Matin Mekzad, MD- 036.098147
  62. James Wachter, MD- 036.076399
  
11. Shawnee Women's Health: 1- Licensed Health Care Provider
  63. Donald Bishop, MD- 036.087118
  
12. Shawnee Health Care Marion: 2- Licensed Health Care Providers
  64. Christa Pestka, MD- 036.107039
  65. Randall Pass, MD- 036.116809