IAFP
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians

the VISION the VOICE of Today's Family Physician

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September 10, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

The Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) is very interested in addressing the need for development of an Illinois Health Information Exchange (IHIE). There has been great progress in adoption of electronic health records by Illinois family physicians. Some Illinois healthcare systems have developed an intranet where health records can be shared between hospitals and some clinics. However, there is much to be done to allow health records to be shared across healthcare systems.

IAFP has been a part of the IHIE movement since its inception as a state task force. Ellen Brull, M.D., IAFP past president, helped to introduce legislation that became the law enabling the development of our IHIE plan to date. IAFP has been involved in the planning and leadership of IHIE and endeavors to continue until a fully functioning health information exchange is established. IHIE will improve health care quality for patients.

IAFP has been very impressed with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (IDHFS), which is submitting the proposal. For the past four years IDHFS, the state Medicaid agency, has been collaborating with IAFP and many other medical organizations to launch successful primary care case management (Illinois Health Connect, www.illinoishealthconnect.com) and chronic disease management (Your Healthcare Plus, www.yourhealthcareplus.com) projects. IDHFS has been able to transform Illinois Medicaid from a payment system to a growing healthcare system. There are now 1.9 million patients in 5200+ medical homes.

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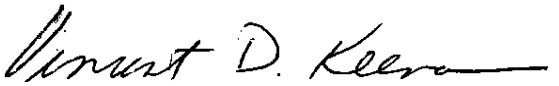
The need for an operational IHIE is critical to improved patient care in Illinois. There is no other source of funding that could be the catalyst to develop IHIE. IAFP members and staff will continue to participate in the leadership of IHIE. IAFP will promote IHIE to our members and educate them on how to join and participate.

IDHFS has the experience and talented staff to coordinate the development of IHIE in an efficient and effective use of grant funds. IAFP looks forward to working with IDHFS to ensure that the IHIE is successfully launched and operational.

Sincerely,



Vincent D. Keenan, CAE
Executive vice president

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David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

September 9, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

The Illinois Hospital Association, representing 200 member hospitals, is pleased to submit our letter of support for the State of Illinois' application for HITECH funds for Health Information Exchange (HIE).

IHA is very interested in addressing the exchange of health information exchange (HIE) in Illinois and the implementation of electronic health records in Illinois. While we have some of the leading HIMSS Level 7 and 6 electronic medical record adoption organizations in the United States; we also have many providers that have not yet adopted the electronic health record and for those that have, little opportunity to electronically exchange information among health care providers to best meet patient information needs in a timely and uniform manner.

The State of Illinois HITECH HIE grant application serves to address the planning and implementation of HIE among all providers to advance care for Illinois patients and to reduce the administrative costs and delays in caring for patients. Illinois is uniquely positioned to optimize the HITECH funds as Illinois embarked on an HIE initiative almost a year ago and has had an active HIE Advisory Group through the State of Illinois for several years.

Illinois hospitals represent a diverse group of hospitals including teaching, rural, urban, suburban, safety net and specialty services, such as pediatric, behavioral health, long term care, wound, and ventilator services. The ability to communicate among hospital providers and across a continuum of care providers is essential to improving care delivery and services for patients.

IHA has been an active partner in the HIE Advisory Group and will continue to play a leadership role with our hospitals for the benefit of all patients and providers. We have been actively engaged in discussions with hospitals and their communities at local and state levels and continue to promote the value of Electronic Health Records. IHA has also formed the Quality Care Institute (QCI) which has many services and products focused on the integration of HIT and quality to improve the processes and outcomes of care for patients. The Quality and HIT Forum of the QCI was developed at the direction of providers so that

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leading health care professionals in Illinois could come together and share strategies for improving care for patients through HIT and HIE.

IHA will continue to fully support the HIE initiatives of the State of Illinois. IHA has worked with various state agencies on task forces and advisory groups on EHRs, privacy and confidentiality issues, HIE, and quality and patient safety. IHA will also engage its member hospitals in support of the State of Illinois EHR and HIE initiatives and the activities that will be funded through this grant.

IHA is confident in the ability of the State of Illinois agencies to fulfill the requirements of the HITECH HIE grant. IHA has worked side by side with Illinois state agencies for many years and will continue to work in partnership with them in providing the technical support, representation, and advocacy they need in providing HIE leadership to all providers. We all share the same goal of providing the best HIE infrastructure for Illinois providers so that the ultimate goal of providing the highest quality processes and outcomes of care can be realized.

If you have any additional questions regarding IHA's letter of support and role in HIE, please contact me by e-mail at pmerryweather@ihastaff.org or by telephone at 630-276-5590. Thank you.

Warmest regards,

Patricia Merryweather
Senior Vice President
Illinois Hospital Association
1151 E. Warrenville Road
Naperville, Illinois 60566

American Academy of Pediatrics

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October 12, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

The Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP) represents 2,300 pediatricians throughout Illinois and supports them, their staffs and other pediatric health care providers to improve the health and well-being of Illinois children and families. ICAAP strongly supports the State of Illinois' application for HITECH funds for Health Information Exchange (HIE) planning and implementation activities.

The electronic exchange of clinical information, including the adoption of electronic health records (EHRs) and electronic prescribing, are critical steps toward improving patient safety and increasing efficiency in our healthcare system. Our members and other healthcare providers are well aware of the need to move toward EHRs to help improve care and efficiency. EHRs can reduce prescribing errors, prevent redundant tests, and improve care coordination among providers. We should work toward expanding the use of the technology among all healthcare providers, and facilitating the exchange of information.

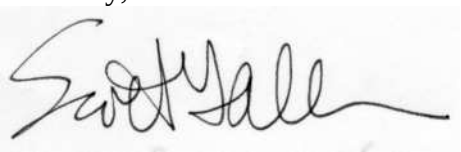
The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) has already taken important steps in this direction, and the application for HITECH funds will help us to continue and see efforts to fruition. The State implemented the HIE planning initiative nearly a year ago with the release of a limited amount of state funds to help communities begin to develop an operational framework that will eventually give rise to statewide interoperability. We supported that process and continue to work to engage providers in various phases in their adoption of electronic medical records. We are also aware of the challenges in facilitating adoption, interoperability and the sharing of patient medical information across the continuum of care. We are committed to joining with HFS and other partners to bring the pediatric perspective to the table. The HIE initiative to date has generated a collaborative energy that will grow with the successful HITECH grant application.

We applaud the goals of this project, which are to support the adoption and meaningful use of electronic health records to improve health care quality and outcomes, improve patient safety, reduce health disparities, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, enhance patient care coordination, enhance public health and disease surveillance and control the cost of health care. ICAAP is committed to identifying its member pediatricians to support the effort by serving on advisory committees and helping shape efforts, particularly from the perspective of the small and mid-size private practice provider, who may not be easily integrated into efforts given their lack of formal affiliations with large clinic or health systems.

We are excited to partner with other provider groups, Medicaid, and patient advocates to bring HIEs to Illinois and feel that Illinois is well-positioned for the project. The size and diversity of Illinois and its communities will provide important information on making progress in this area. Our organization is firmly committed to promoting the "medical home" or patient-centered care concept, and we see the electronic exchange of information and EHRs as critical elements necessary to function as a high quality medical home for patients.

ICAAP shares in the state's goal of developing an effective plan for a state-level HIE that will provide for the efficient and effective delivery of high quality healthcare services for patients throughout all of our diverse communities. Health information exchange is critical to achieving positive health outcomes while reducing costs. We are confident in the ability of the State of Illinois and its partners to implement the program well, and we look forward to a successful application.

Sincerely,



Scott G. Allen, MS, Executive Director
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
/sga

Illinois State Medical Society

September 30, 2009

David Blumenthal M.D., MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

This letter is in support of the application submitted by the State of Illinois for the State Health Information Exchange Grant Program. On behalf of the 12,000 member physicians of the Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS), I strongly support the State of Illinois application to develop a health information exchange.

The state has included the ISMS in recent statewide health information technology committees and ISMS has forged a collaborative relationship with the state. ISMS intends to continue to work with the state as it implements the grant. In particular ISMS will keep our member physicians informed of the opportunities for furthering health information exchange due to the grant. ISMS is excited about the potential that health information exchange can have for physicians and their patients, but also is realistic about the challenges ahead. We are confident that the state can convene the necessary mix of stakeholders to successfully implement this grant and enhance the state's ability to foster an environment where health information exchange is conducted in a secure and cost effective manner.

We ask that you give the State of Illinois' proposal the strongest possible consideration for funding.

Sincerely,

Peter E. Eupierre, M.D.
Chair, Board of Trustees

PEE:pg

cc: James L. Milam, M.D.
Steven M. Malkin, M.D.
Alexander R. Lerner

Twenty North Michigan Avenue, Suite 700 Chicago, Illinois 60602 Web site: www.isms.org
Telephone: 312-782-1654 Toll Free: 800-782-ISMS Fax: 312-782-2023

IPHCA

Illinois Primary Health Care Association

www.iphca.org

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September 8, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of the Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA), I am pleased to support the State of Illinois' application for the State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program. IPHCA represents Illinois' network of community health centers, which provide primary, dental and mental health care to more than 1 million patients at over 350 sites statewide.

Recognizing the importance of electronic health records (EHR) to health centers and their patients, IPHCA recently began implementation of an EHR and practice management system in several health centers throughout the state. The ability for those health centers to effectively exchange information with other providers, such as labs, pharmacies, specialists and hospitals will depend on the state's ability to implement a statewide health information exchange (HIE).

As the State's Medicaid agency, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) will be responsible for developing a statewide HIE and for disbursing Medicaid incentive payments associated with EHR adoption. Last spring, HFS began working toward a statewide HIE by dividing the state into 16 Medical Trading Areas and awarding state funded planning grants for each one. The federal grant opportunity will allow HFS to continue those efforts in establishing HIE capacity among all types of health care providers in Illinois.

A statewide program to promote HIE will help to realize the full potential of EHRs to improve the coordination, efficiency and quality of care. Because over fifty percent of Illinois' health center patients are enrolled in the Medicaid/CHIP program, IPHCA has a strong relationship with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services. We look forward to working with them on this project.

Please contact Jill Hayden, Director of State Governmental Affairs, at (217) 541-7327 or jhayden@iphca.org, for additional information.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Johnson, President & CEO

cc: Greg Wass
Laura Zaremba

Springfield - **500 South 9th Street ▪ Springfield, IL 62701 ▪ tel (217) 541-7300 ▪ fax (217) 541-7301**

Chicago - **542 South Dearborn, Suite 300 ▪ Chicago, IL 60605 ▪ tel (312) 692-3000 ▪ fax (312) 692-3001**

ASSOCIATION OF SAFETY-NET COMMUNITY HOSPITALS

October 14, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

On behalf of the Association of Safety-Net Community Hospitals I am writing in support of the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois. We believe that statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois is vitally important for patients to receive appropriate and timely care.

Our Association was organized to increase the understanding by government entities and elected officials of the specific mission and needs of safety-net community hospitals in Illinois. Our mission is critical because, with very limited exceptions, we serve only the neediest members of society.

The HIE proposal is a critical step in ensuring that we continue to improve healthcare quality and outcomes, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, improve patient safety and care coordination, and control the overall cost of healthcare.

The Association of Safety-Net Community Hospitals stands ready to meet obligations of participation in support of this project and are confident that the HIE proposal will be implemented in a coordinated manner with other partners and ensure efficient and effective use of grant funds. We are confident that the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange proposal will be a successful project and a very important and necessary step in moving forward our goals in health care information integration. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Mark Newton
President and CEO
Swedish Covenant Hospital
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Office: (773) 907-1000
Fax: (773) 878-6152
mnewton@swedishcovenant.org

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ICAHN
Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network

September 16, 2009

David Blumenthal, MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

REFERENCE: Letter of Support for Illinois Department for Healthcare and Family Services Application

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:
The Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network (ICAHN) appreciates the opportunity to provide its support of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Service's (HFS) state health information exchange application. ICAHN believes HFS has the statewide position and capabilities to coordinate and promote the further development of health information exchange (HIE) throughout the state from the metropolitan areas to the rural areas. HFS has taken the lead this past year to bring key stakeholders together to initiate a dialog to share HIE experiences and identify medical provider technology and HIE educational needs. As a result, HFS was able to award planning grants for 16 areas to begin their own community health information exchange discussion.

HFS has been inclusive of multiple stakeholders in this process which has been a tremendous benefit for the rural communities and providers. ICAHN is a not for profit corporation of the 51 Illinois critical access hospitals and has been included in state discussions because of the outreach efforts of HFS. They have maximized resources to push HIE activity. No other major organization or state agency has been able to pull together key players from all aspects to achieve this goal. ICAHN applauds their efforts and leadership.

ICAHN is willing to participate in the various advisory and committee meetings and share its experiences with HIE with rural providers. ICAHN received a federal grant to create an exchange between two critical access hospitals and resource center in 2007 with the project completed in 2009. ICAHN has staff trained in health information exchange project management and direct service and can assist and support as needed. In addition, ICAHN works closely with rural health clinics and physician practices and will be happy to provide communication/services to those providers on behalf of HFS and other stakeholders. Illinois critical access hospitals and rural health clinics are the primary and emergency care providers in over 60 percent of the Illinois counties – covering the vast majority of rural counties.

In summary, ICAHN is pleased to support the HFS application and offers its staff resources and communication system to advance statewide HIE activities for improvement of healthcare and delivery. ICAHN Is confident HFS staff will be able to lead as well as work cooperatively and fairly to ensure success in Illinois. If further information, please contact me. Pat Schou, Executive Director, Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network, 245 Backbone Road East, Princeton, IL 61356; Email: pschou@icahn.org Phone: 815-875-2999 Fax: 815-875-2990

Sincerely,

Pat Schou
Executive Director

ALLIANCE OF CHICAGO
Community Health Services, LLC

October 14, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of the Alliance of Chicago Community Health Services, LLC, I am pleased to offer support for the State of Illinois' application for the State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program. The Alliance is a network of four community health centers serving primarily low-income and uninsured patients with multiple, complex needs. Our goal is to efficiently and effectively deliver accessible, quality health care and achieve efficiencies of scale, and we understand the great impact that a state-level Health Information Exchange can have on the patients we serve.

As the State's Medicaid agency, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) is responsible for developing the state-level HIE and disbursing Medicaid incentive payments associated with EHR adoption. Earlier this year, HFS began its HIE initiative by dividing the state into 16 Medical Trading Areas and distributing a modest grant amount of $3 million to be split among the 16 grantees. This federal grant opportunity will allow HFS to continue those efforts in establishing HIE capacity among all types of health providers in Illinois. Due to the high percentage of Illinois' health center patients being enrolled in Medicaid/SCHIP, the Alliance is very eager to collaborate on this project and enhance its already strong relationship with HFS.

The statewide nature of this initiative and its collaborative approach, and commitment to broad-based stakeholder involvement constitute an excellent strategy for ensuring that public and private interests can efficiently partner to develop and implement the statewide Health Information Exchange, all while working to overcome obstacles to its implementation at a national level.

In conclusion, I reiterate the support of the Alliance of Chicago Community Health Services for Illinois' application for funding under this grant initiative. For additional information about the Alliance and our interest in HIE, please feel to contact me via the information provided below.

Sincerely,

Fred D. Rachman, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer and Chief Medical Officer
Alliance of Chicago Community Health Services, LLC
frachman@alliancechicago.org

CAPS
Consumers Advancing Patient Safety

October 12, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Subject: Letter in support of HIE planning grant proposal by Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

As co-founders of Consumers Advancing Patient Safety (CAPS), we are writing to support the proposal by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (DHFS) to develop and head the Health Information Exchange (HIE) planning work in Illinois.

CAPS is an Illinois-based non-profit organization whose mission is to advance healthcare that is safe, compassionate and just through partnership between consumers, providers and policy makers. In June 2008, CAPS conducted a workshop in Illinois, funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Otho S.A. Sprague Institute and supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) to prioritize patient safety challenges and opportunities in Illinois. Six action plans were produced, including two that emphasized the importance of addressing gaps in care that emerge as patients traverse between care settings, i.e., from clinic to hospital, hospital to home, pharmacy to home, etc.

We believe that investment in effective, interoperable HIE is crucial to closing these gaps in the continuum of care. We further believe that Illinois patients and their families are an important constituency in trouble-shooting and evaluating the implementation of HIE in Illinois. Patients and their families see are actively engaged in managing their own care of that of loved ones. In that capacity they see things that busy providers miss. Patients who engage in the management of their own care have consistently been shown to experience better treatment outcomes. Expanding the use of HIE and engaging patients and families in its use in Illinois presents a very meaningful win/win opportunity to work together to advance the safety of care across the continuum.

405 N. Wabash • Suite P2W • Chicago, IL 60611 • Tel 312.464.0602 • Fax 312.464.0607 • www.patientsafety.org

CAPS has been invited to give input to DHFS as the agency developed this proposal, and stand ready to support it in any way that we can. We are impressed with the staff leadership on this project at DHFS and are convinced that the agency has recruited the right stakeholders as partners in this important work. Moreover, we encouraged by the efforts of DHFS and the organizations it has gathered as partners have made to achieve support for this very important work.

Yours sincerely

Susan E. Sheridan, MIB, MBA, President

Martin J. Hatlie, JD, Program Chair

Consumers Advancing Patient Safety
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Coalition for Quality & Patient Safety
of Chicagoland

October 12, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Subject: Letter in support of HIE planning grant bid by Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

I write today on behalf of CQPS – the Coalition for Quality and Patient Safety of Chicagoland – to express support for the bid by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (DHFS) to develop and head the Health Information Exchange (HIE) planning work in our State.

The CQPS mission is to *mobilize the diverse healthcare stakeholders in metropolitan Chicago to provide the best possible care to every patient every time by eliminating preventable harm and implementing systemic change to ensure consistent excellence*.

Our guiding principles are:

- Identify known, evidence-based best practices which can be broadly implemented. The core purpose is to improve care through knowledge transfer, not to develop new knowledge.
- Stimulate and drive collaboration, research, or pilot studies to develop new knowledge or expand on what is known when recognized best-practices are inadequate for high-priority safety or quality issues.
- Focus on measurably improving care through partnerships among consumers, providers, payers and other stakeholders (i.e. government, employers, etc).
- Commit to transparency of process and outcome both locally and nationally: share what we have learned.

Our aim is high. We believe that measurably transparent, safe and high quality health care can be provided to all patients in the Chicago-area if all stakeholders make it a top priority. This goal must be achieved across the entire care continuum, and it must involve cooperation and collaboration among all those involved in providing, delivering or paying for that care.

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312.431.9115 fax E-Mail: cpsf@iomc.org www.CQPS.org

In our view, effective implementation of HIE in Illinois will advance all the CQPS goals outlined above. Most importantly, if done well HIE will expedite the adoption and use of practice guidelines and produce better outcomes of care for Illinois patients in their journey across handoffs and transitions in the care process. The complexity of coordination of care challenges continues to grow, and the ability of Illinois-based providers to safely manage patients with pen and paper tools is has been outpaced. Addressing these challenges certainly is achievable if resources are made available and used well. Accordingly, the HIE planning process is extremely important to the well being of Illinois citizens.

CQPS has been invited to give input to DHFS as the agency developed this proposal, and stand ready to support it in any way that we can. We are impressed with the staff leadership on this project at DHFS and are convinced that the agency has recruited the right stakeholders as partners in this important work.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Hatlie, JD, CEO
CQPS – The Coalition for Quality and Patient Safety of Chicagoland (Illinois)
222 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 1900, Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: 312-906-6196
Fax: 312-431-9115
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Executive Director
Robyn Gabel

ILLINOIS MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH COALITION
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October 6, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

On behalf of the Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition (IMCHC), I am writing this letter in support of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services' (IDHFS) application to the "State Health Information Exchange – Cooperative Agreement Program" under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: State Grants to Promote Health Information Technology Planning and Implementation Project.

The Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition believes that the appropriate and secure exchange of health information is vital to improving the overall quality, delivery, accessibility, and accountability of the healthcare system in Illinois.

IMCHC is a statewide coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to improving the health and well-being of women, children and families in Illinois. Over the past 20 years IMCHC has had many successful partnerships with IDHFS including:

- The *Healthy Births, Healthy Communities* initiative to improve infant mortality rates
- CHIP Outreach efforts to enroll eligible children and their parents in State/Federal health coverage programs
- A partnership to increase access to and quality of prenatal care services

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services is in a prime position to lead and coordinate these efforts and we look forward to working with them to help improve the coordination and impact of services through the expanded use of health information technology.

Sincerely,

Robyn Gabel

Robyn Gabel, Executive Director
Illinois Maternal & Child Health Coalition

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

October 13, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

HIMSS is focused on addressing the need for health information exchange (HIE) across the state of Illinois as well as throughout a nationwide network. The ability for healthcare providers to access health information at the time and place where it is needed, in a secure and private way, is essential for the optimal health of all citizens.

The State of Illinois is submitting a proposal to seek funding from the State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program to advance a statewide HIE. We encourage the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide resources to enable the State of Illinois to improve and expand HIE services to all healthcare providers to improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare.

In spite of the commitment and support of multiple entities and individuals and the importance of this activity to the health of our citizens, we are concerned that without grant funding the State of Illinois would not be able to achieve this important endeavor.

Through our local, regional and national advocacy efforts and in collaboration with the HIMSS Greater Chicagoland Chapter, we support this proposal. In addition, we encourage the continued participation of Joyce Sensmeier MS, RN-BC, HIMSS Vice President, Informatics, as a member of the Illinois HIE Advisory Committee, serving as the HIMSS liaison and content expert in the areas of clinical informatics, standards and interoperability. Additionally, we will work with the appropriate entities to provide guidance on the efficient and effective use of grant funds.

The State of Illinois has been working with a broad base of stakeholders over a number of years to lay the foundation for successful statewide health information exchange. We are confident that this funding will help these efforts to be realized.

Name: Joyce Sensmeier MS, RN-BC, CPHIMS, FHIMSS
Title: Vice President, Informatics
Agency: Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
State: Illinois
Address: 230 East Ohio, Suite 500, Chicago, IL. 60611
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Cook County Health & Hospitals System

Todd H. Stroger • President
Cook County Board of Commissioners

Warren L. Batts • Chairman
Cook County Health & Hospitals System

Jorge Ramirez • Vice-Chairman
Cook County Health & Hospitals System

William T. Foley • CEO
Cook County Health & Hospitals System

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Benn Greenspan
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Dr. Luis R. Muñoz
Heather E. O'Donnell
Andrea L. Zopp

October 13, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of the **Cook County Health & Hospitals System,** I am writing to express our strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois. It is our belief that statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois is vitally important in order to facilitate state participation in nationwide health information exchange. This effort will also create economic development opportunities for Illinois, spur job growth, and realize transformational health benefits for Illinois' citizens.

These efforts will be of great value to the corporate and individual citizens of the state in terms of improving the healthcare system in Illinois. This proposal is a critical step in ensuring that we continue to improve healthcare quality and outcomes, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, improve patient safety and care coordination, and control the overall cost of healthcare.

For decades, the Cook County Health & Hospitals System has been the premier safety net provider in the State of Illinois, and constitutes one of the largest public hospital systems in the nation. To further its mission, the System partners with scores of community health centers, many hospital providers across the region, as well as local public health departments. Access to clinical information for our patients, to and from these collaborating providers through electronic information exchange, would enhance the quality of care and reduce the costs of providing care to our particularly vulnerable patient populations.

The Cook County Health System would welcome the opportunity to serve on a governance body for the Illinois' HIE initiative, and help design information exchange systems targeted particularly at providers serving the under- and uninsured. We believe the potential return on investment for exchange systems targeting vulnerable populations may be especially large.

We recognize that this effort is essential in order to further our state's leadership position in Health Information Exchange, pursue new economic development and technology opportunities, and help speed the adoption of electronic medical records so that Illinois is compliant with the federal goal to make all health records electronic by 2014. We are committed to ongoing collaboration with the State of Illinois to ensure that statewide integration of HIE is achieved.

The statewide nature of this initiative and its collaborative approach, and commitment to broad-based stakeholder involvement constitute an excellent strategy for ensuring that public and private interests can efficiently partner to develop and implement the statewide Health Information Exchange, all while working to overcome obstacles to its implementation at a national level.

Sincerely,

Randall L. Mark

Name	Randall L Mark
Title	Director of Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Agency	Cook County Health & Hospitals System
Division (if applicable)	
State	Illinois
Address	1900 W. Polk St., Suite 123
	Chicago, IL 60612
Phone	312.864-0916
Fax Number	312.864-9748
Email	rlmark@ccbhs.org

Cc: Laura Zaremba, HFS
William Foley, CCHHS
Anthony Tedeschi, CCHHS
Dan Howard, CCHHS

City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Innovation and Technology

Hardik Bhatt
Chief Information Officer

Suite 2700
50 West Washington Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 744-5844
(312) 744-9004 (FAX)
http://www.cityofchicago.org

September 9, 2009

Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
United States Department of Health and Human Services

Re: State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Chicago is pleased to support the proposal by the State of Illinois to create a Regional Health Information Exchange for Illinois.

The City is committed to making Chicago and Illinois a national leader in the use of technology to improve lives, and it is difficult to imagine an area with greater opportunity for technology-led change than healthcare. For example, last month, the City submitted a proposal to the federal Broadband Technology Opportunities Program to create a new fiber-optic network capable of providing services up to 100 Mbps to hospitals and primary care providers in support of health information technology applications. The City has also made training of workers for health information technology professions a major part of its workforce development strategy. These initiatives, and many others, complement this proposal and make Illinois an ideal host for one of America's first Regional Health Information Exchanges.

The varieties of expertise and skills that are available within this proposal is an appropriate response to the challenge of engaging and assisting primary care providers in all types of settings and assisting providers with a timely and appropriate transition to meaningful use of certified electronic health records.

We look forward to working with the State during program implementation to identify additional partners and resources.

Sincerely,

Hardik Bhatt
Chief Information Officer and Commissioner
Department of Innovation and Technology
312-742-0667
hbhatt@cityofchicago.org

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Department of Public Health

Terry Mason, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Commissioner

333 South State Street
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(312) 747-9888 (24 hours)
(312) 747-2374 (TTY)

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October 15, 2009

David Blumenthal M.D., MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), I am writing to express support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services for the Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program.

The creation of an Illinois HIE that provides improvement in the coordination of care and the sharing of health information among providers of health care services has long been recognized as a powerful strategy to improve the outcome in the delivery of health care services. We envision tremendous value in the creation of a state-level HIE in Illinois that unites providers across all communities.

The mission of the Chicago Department of Public Health is to make Chicago a safer and healthier place by working with community partners to promote health, prevent disease, reduce environmental hazards and insure access to healthcare for all Chicagoans. We recognize that the implementation of a state-level HIE is critical in that mission. The State's goals of improving health care quality and outcomes, improving patient safety and care coordination, and controlling the cost of health care are congruent with the goals of the Department, and we pledge to continue working with the State to ensure that those goals are met.

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) has been instrumental in working to coordinate activities on a statewide basis to establish the necessary components for the successful Illinois HIE. We fully support HFS' application for HIE funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and ask for your full and active consideration of this proposal.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Terry Mason (CBS)

Terry Mason, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Commissioner

RxChicago
Department of Public Health
"Providing the Prescription for a Healthy City"

CHICAGO WORKS TOGETHER

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

October 14, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

We are submitting this letter of support on behalf of the Academic Medical Centers of Chicago (AMCs), which consist of Loyola University Medical Center, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Rush University Medical Center, and the University of Chicago Medical Center. The AMCs support the development of a statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE). The expanded use of health information technology will; improve healthcare quality, patient outcomes, and patient safety; reduce health disparities, medical errors, and duplicative services; enhance patient care coordination; and control the cost of health care.

The State of Illinois proposal will bring the necessary focus and resources together to develop a successful statewide HIE. The AMCs have been a strong partner of the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (DHFS) for many years. We have worked together to continually improve the State of Illinois Medicaid Program and the expansion of healthcare to all Illinois children via the All Kids initiative. We are confident that the leadership of the State of Illinois will result in a successful effort by coordinating the various health care partners and stakeholders to develop and implement a statewide HIE.

We will assist with the design and implementation of both regional and statewide HIE. Our experiences in operating large health care networks will be a valuable resource for the State in this process.

There is a great need to move forward with expanding the use of health information technology throughout the State and improve communication in the healthcare process. This grant will provide the much needed funding to move this effort forward to success. We urge you to approve the State of Illinois grant so we can all work together to improve the Illinois health care system.

Northwestern Memorial Hospital

Rush University Medical Center

Loyola University Medical Center

Univ. of Chicago Medical Center

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Illinois' first public university

Research and Sponsored Programs
310 Hovey Hall
Campus Box 3040
Normal, IL 61790-3040
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Fax: (309) 438-7912

September 14, 2009

David Blumenthal MC, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

Illinois State University is strongly supportive of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services' (IDHFS) Health Information Exchange Project. This project addresses the development and implementation of an effective and efficient statewide health information system which will improve the quality of healthcare while reducing healthcare costs in the long-term.

Illinois State is committed to collaborating with State agencies, other educational institutions, healthcare providers, health departments, health plans/insurers, and other Health Information Exchange (HIE) stakeholders to implement a statewide HIE system. Due to the size and demographic diversity of Illinois, a statewide collaborative effort is essential for a successful program. Obtaining federal funding through the State Information Exchange Cooperative Grant Program will provide Illinois with financial resources to achieve widespread and sustainable HIE throughout the state.

Illinois State has participated in several successful statewide collaborative ventures including education, manufacturing, environmental and traffic safety programs with great success. We have several healthcare related colleges and departments that have productive working relationships with the healthcare community including nursing, health information management, counseling and speech therapy that have mutually benefited from existing education partnerships. In addition, several of Illinois State's faculty members are serving on committees working to implement an HIE in our region.

Illinois State is pleased to support the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services' plan to take a leadership role in developing and implementing a Healthcare Information Exchange system in Illinois. We look forward to collaborating with IDHFS and other HIE providers on this exciting and vital project.

Sincerely,

Rodney L. Custer
Associate Vice President of Research

An equal opportunity/affirmative action university encouraging diversity

Northwestern University
Feinberg School of Medicine

Division of Gynecologic Oncology
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
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Phone 312-472-4684
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Julian C. Schink, MD, Chief
John R. Lurain, MD
Diljeet K. Singh, MD, DrPH
Barbara M. Buttin, MD
M. Patrick Lowe, MD

NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY

September 4, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

As Associate Director of Clinical Affairs at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University and as Chief of Gynecologic Oncology I am writing to express strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois. It is our belief that statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois is vitally important for patients to receive appropriate and timely care.

This proposal is a critical step in ensuring that we continue to improve healthcare quality and outcomes, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, improve patient safety and care coordination, and control the overall cost of healthcare.

We recognize that this effort is essential in order to further our state's leadership position in Health Information Exchange, pursue new economic development and technology opportunities, and help speed the adoption of electronic medical records so that Illinois is compliant with the federal goal to make all health records electronic by 2014. We are committed to ongoing collaboration with the State of Illinois to ensure that statewide integration of HIE is achieved.

The Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University is committed to being a national leader in the battle to overcome cancer. To this end, the Cancer Center is dedicated to scientific discovery, advancing medical knowledge, providing compassionate, state-of-the-art cancer care, and training the next generation of clinicians and scientists. We treat over 3,600 newly diagnosed cancer patients each year. Upwards of 80% of cancer patients have at least two different healthcare institutions involved in their treatment. The lack of HIE makes it very difficult to share medical record data between institutions which increases duplicative tests, expands the time to treat and make communication challenging.

Sincerely,

JSchink

Julian C. Schink, M.D.
Associate Director, Clinical Affairs
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University
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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research (MC 672)
310 Administrative Office Building
1737 West Polk Street
Chicago, Illinois 60612-7227

September 9, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

On behalf of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), we are writing to express our strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Health Records in Illinois.

The Health Science Colleges and the Library of the Health Sciences of the University of Illinois have expertise in:

- Biomedical and Health Informatics
- Clinical Research Informatics
- Community Health and Health Disparities
- Health Care Economics
- Health Care Policy
- Public Health Informatics
- Public Health Practice and Disease Surveillance
- Patient Safety and Medical Error Reduction

This expertise can be brought to bear in a variety of ways across the HIE planning and implementation spectrum:

1. A successful HIE will be driven by the demands of use. In the planning effort, our research experience in social and technical barriers can contribute to a more informed planning process, reducing the potential of unintended consequences, including failure. UIC has been researching the area of social and organizational issues in computing for the last decade.

2. A successful HIE is more readily adopted by informed users. Through education, the State can help overcome barriers to adoption of an HIE. UIC has been teaching

health informatics for over 15 years, through an interdisciplinary approach touching on all of the Health Science Colleges and the Library of the Health Sciences at UIC.

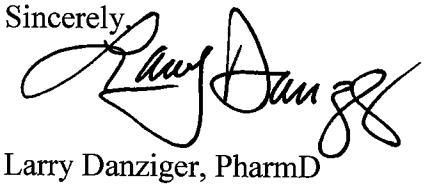
3. A successful HIE is more readily sustained if it is useful. In the evaluation effort, UIC will use the expertise in its Survey Research Laboratory and the domain knowledge in biomedical and health informatics to build a survey with accurate metrics, to deploy the survey in a method that will produce valid and reliable results for the State, and to analyze the survey to help inform practices and government about successes and the warning signs of future failures in its deployment of the HIE.

The sharing of medical information between providers and hospitals has an opportunity to significantly decrease the number of duplicative tests as well as improve the care of patients, among other benefits. The integration of Electronic Health Records, Health Information Exchanges, and diseases registries will lead to the development of cost-effective surveillance systems for the State. As part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH), the creation of the State Health Information Exchange Grant Program is an important transformation technology to change health care. The University of Illinois at Chicago will collaborate with all 16 medical trading areas and with the necessary state and federal agencies to ensure efficient and effective use of grant funds.

We are confident in the State of Illinois' use of the Health Information Exchange program funds to transform health care in Illinois. While a challenging undertaking, the State has already demonstrated its commitment to HIE by establishing and funding 16 medical trading areas across the State of Illinois, and preparing an HIE plan through its Illinois Health Information Exchange Advisory Board.

The University looks forward to participating in this important state-wide collaboration.

Sincerely,



Larry Danziger, PharmD
Interim Vice Chancellor for Research

MCHC
Metropolitan Chicago
Healthcare Council

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South Shore Hospital

Paul Pawlak
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Silver Cross Hospital

Patricia Shehorn
Executive Vice President and
Chief Executive Officer
Westlake Hospital

Joanne Smith, M.D.
President/Chief Executive Officer
Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago

Sister Elizabeth Van Straten
President/Chief Executive Officer
Saint Bernard Hospital and
Health Care Center

Thomas L. Wright
President/Chief Executive Officer
Delnor-Community Hospital

September 4, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council, I am writing to express our strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois.

MCHC is a membership and service organization of over 140 hospitals and healthcare organizations throughout Metropolitan Chicago. We are dedicated to helping members care for their communities through access to health care and improved delivery of services. Our vision is access to high quality healthcare for all communities.

It is our belief that statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois is vitally important in order to facilitate state participation in nationwide health information exchange. This effort will also create economic development opportunities for Illinois, spur job growth, and realize transformational health benefits for Illinois' citizens.

These efforts will be of great value to the corporate and individual citizens of the state in terms of improving the healthcare system in Illinois. This proposal is a critical step toward MCHC's vision. Advancing HIE implementation helps us to ensure that we continue to improve healthcare quality and outcomes, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, improve patient safety and care coordination, and control the overall cost of healthcare.

Implementation of HIE will also drive innovation in the healthcare marketplace and be an important source of new jobs in the healthcare sector. This collaborative approach will generate market opportunities for healthcare information technology and, equally important, create jobs.

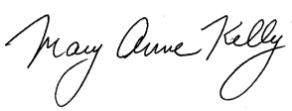
We recognize that this effort is essential in order to further our state's leadership position in Health Information Exchange, pursue new economic development and technology opportunities, and help speed the adoption of electronic medical records so that Illinois is compliant with the federal goal to make all health records electronic by 2014. We are committed to ongoing collaboration with the State of Illinois to ensure that statewide integration of HIE is achieved.

MCHC is currently working with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to plan for the implementation of HIE in Metropolitan Chicago. We have been awarded planning grants for five of the Medical Trading Areas in Northeast Illinois, and our role is to convene all stakeholders and ensure that their interests are incorporated into Illinois' statewide plan.

The statewide nature of this initiative and its collaborative approach, and commitment to broad-based stakeholder involvement constitute an excellent strategy for ensuring that public and private interests can efficiently partner to develop and implement the statewide Health Information Exchange, all while working to overcome obstacles to its implementation at a national level.

We enthusiastically support the State of Illinois' application. Should you have any questions, or if I can provide additional information, please contact me at (312) 906-6107, makelly@mchc.com.

Sincerely,



Mary Anne Kelly
Vice President and Chief Human Resource Officer
Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council

BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois

Paul Boulis
President

October 16, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, a division of Health Care Service Corporation, ("BCBSIL") is very interested in supporting the Illinois Health Information Exchange grant application. The grant is addressing the ability to coordinate and improve health care services in the state of Illinois. This is a concern that all members of the Illinois community view as a means to improve the quality and cost concerns in the delivery of health care.

Since the inception of the Illinois Health Information Exchange panel in 2005, BCBSIL has continued to be an active contributor to the collaboration and planning of the state based exchange. We have highly engaged Blue Cross employees actively working with the State Chief Information Office, Deputy Director of the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration, and the Illinois Deputy Director of the Department of Public Health. We support the Illinois Health Information Exchange grant proposal, are very active in the state collaborative and encourage your office to likewise support the Illinois Health Information Exchange.

The value brought to the State of Illinois by the public-private Illinois Health Information Exchange will be significant. At its core, the State Health Information Exchange will enable improve decision making by ensuring more information is available to the clinician at the time of care. This will greatly support the residents of the State to improve their overall health and wellbeing. Absent the ability to attain this information at the State level we will continue to have insufficient information for the clinical community in Illinois.

As in the past, BCBSIL will continue to contribute at the Governance, Privacy, Finance and Technical committees. In addition, BCBSIL has lead and partnered on several Health Information Technology efforts in the form of pilots with other stakeholders. This includes a portfolio of initiatives, active collaboration with the clinicians and subsidizing several technical solutions in partnerships with major health providers. We will continue to work with local leaders with current efforts, support industry standards, local pilots as well as continue our active participation at every opportunity with the State.

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Divisions of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company, an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

The State collaboration has proven to be an effective coordinator and it is our belief that the public-private organization it advocates will ensure efficient and effective use of grant funds. BCBSIL has confidence in and will support the Illinois Health Information Exchange.

Please contact Steve Hamman, Vice President of Health Care Management, at (312) 653-5837, hammas@BCBSIL.com with any questions or comments.

We appreciate the opportunity to support the State in its efforts with the Exchange.

Sincerely,

Paul Boulis
President

cc: Steve Hamman

Robert Mendonsa
President
North Central Region
Aetna Small and Middle Market Business

One South Wacker
Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: 312-928-3035
Fax: 860-975-9751

October 16, 2009

David Blumenthal M.D., MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Illinois HIE Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

I am writing to you today on behalf of Aetna to indicate our very strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) grant application to the Department of Health and Human Services. Statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois will facilitate expanded use of health information technology, which is key to addressing quality problems that exist in the health care system.

To achieve this connectivity and link all health care providers Illinois needs investment in an HIE network infrastructure and this cannot be done without federal support. Today, only 41% of HIEs receive enough revenue to cover their operating costs. At Aetna, we believe that a secure, multi-source data exchange is important for providers and their EHR systems because it gives them a more complete view of patient needs. To date approximately 13% of physicians and 7.5% of hospitals have adopted extensive electronic records systems and the adoption rate is even lower for comprehensive systems that typically include clinical decision support. Beyond this failure to electronically manage health care information within a clinical setting, clinicians report missing comprehensive information about their patients at the point of care, which can adversely affect both health care outcomes and physician productivity. Developing smart investments in health information technology will ensure providers and their patients receive better and more timely access to key health care data.

In addition to supporting smart investments in health information technology that ensure providers and their patients receive better and more timely access to key health care data, one of Aetna's main interests is developing, implementing and using advanced clinical decision support tools already within the private sector to generate better results for patients and overall savings. Last year, ActiveHealth Management, a health care data analytics company owned by Aetna, delivered over seven million clinical alerts to physicians and patients through its CareEngine application. A randomized controlled study published in 2005 found that patients monitored by CareEngine experienced 19% fewer hospital admissions, and a 2008 follow-up study further showed that CareEngine reduced provider charges by six percent. Connecting HIE networks to clinical decision support tools provides actionable information to physicians and patients creating greater value in the entire health care system. However, none of this can be done without the development of a HIE network infrastructure.

To this end, we strongly support Illinois' grant application that will encourage providers to acquire and use electronic health records that are fully integrated into a broader HIE. If you should have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or Elena Butkus, Director Government Affairs, East North Central Region at @aetna. or (312) 928-3062. We will coordinate any questions you may have on either HIE or our support of the State's request in Illinois.

Sincerely,

Robert Mendonsa
President
North Central Region
Aetna Small and Middle Market Business

RM/pm

HUMANA
Guidance when you need it most

Friday, October 16, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC 20201

RE: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of Humana, Inc., I am writing to express our strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) grant application to the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois will facilitate expanded use of health information technology in the state, leading to improved coordination and quality of health care services. This effort will also create economic development opportunities for Illinois, spur job growth, and realize transformational health benefits for Illinois' citizens.

These efforts will be of great value to the corporate and individual citizens of the state. The proposal is a critical step in ensuring that we continue to improve healthcare quality and outcomes, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, improve patient safety and care coordination, and control the overall cost of healthcare.

Implementation of HIE will also drive innovation in the healthcare marketplace and be an important source of new jobs in the healthcare sector. This collaborative approach will generate market opportunities for healthcare information technology and, equally important, create jobs. We recognize that this effort is essential in order to further our state's leadership position in Health Information Exchange, pursue new economic development and technology opportunities, and help speed the adoption of electronic medical records so that Illinois is compliant with the federal goal to make all health records electronic by 2014. We are committed to working with the State of Illinois to ensure that statewide integration of HIE is achieved.

The statewide nature of this initiative and its collaborative approach, and commitment to broad-based stakeholder involvement constitute an excellent strategy for ensuring that public and private interests can efficiently partner to develop and implement the statewide Health Information Exchange, all while working to overcome obstacles to its implementation at a national level.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Kasper
Market President, Illinois
Humana Inc.
550 West Adams Street, Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60661
(312) 441-5352

UnitedHealthcare®
A UnitedHealth Group Company

October 16, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

UnitedHealth Group has a long history of concrete commitments to modernizing healthcare using health information technology solutions to improve the quality and reduce the variability and the cost of care delivered to Americans. We have committed time, resources and funding to appropriate projects throughout the nation.

UnitedHealth Group has a strong record of engaging with market-based health information exchange collaboratives through UnitedHealthcare, our commercial insurance company. These engagements include existing health information exchange projects such as CalRHIO, CareSpark (Southeastern Tennessee and Western Virginia), Indiana Health Information Exchange, HealthE-MidAmerica in Kansas City, and others in development. Nationally, we are working on many levels to develop and implement standard data sets and interoperable information systems to speed adoption of health information exchange, as well as standard measures to objectively determine long term impact on quality and value. We use our experience thoughtfully to advance projects that have the possibility of improving and reducing the cost of care.

UnitedHealthcare recognizes that many different organizations around the country are applying for grants under HITECH. Operating in all 50 states, we have a keen interest in working collaboratively with new grantees, wherever they are located, to determine their specific needs and how we may be able to support those needs. Locally in Illinois, UnitedHealthcare executives are actively involved in a wide variety of collaborative projects that will improve the quality of healthcare in Illinois using the power of health data and health information technology.

Given our commitment to health care modernization efforts, including the widespread use of electronic health information to improve care and reduce its cost, we are pleased to offer this letter in support of the application of Illinois' Health Information Exchange for HITECH funding. We look forward to working with the Illinois Health Information Exchange and stakeholders throughout Illinois to support HIE adoption and implementation

Sincerely,
UNITEDHEALTHCARE

Thomas P. Wiffler

Thomas P. Wiffler
President and CEO

cc: File

233 N Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60601 / 312-424-4880

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Transforming Lives.Inventing the Future.

September 30, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

www.iit.edu

John L. Anderson
President

Office of the President
Perlstein Hall, Suite 223
10 West 33rd Street
Chicago, Illinois 60616

312.567.5198
312.567.3004 Fax
johna@iit.edu

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of Illinois Institute of Technology, I am writing to express the university's strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois. This effort will create economic development opportunities for Illinois, spur job growth, and realize transformational health benefits for Illinois' citizens.

Implementation of HIE will also drive innovation in the healthcare marketplace and be an important source of new jobs in the healthcare sector. This collaborative approach will generate market opportunities for healthcare information technology and, equally important, create jobs. We are particularly interested in the success of the Illinois proposal because of the presence of the Center for the Management of Medical Technologies, led by Professor Eli Geisler of the Stuart School of Business. Dr. Geisler is working with your office currently on strategies for evaluation of the state's HIE. The presence of the program in Illinois will help him in the development of innovative approaches to assessing the success of the program in general.

Illinois is a large state with a very diverse population. The presence of an HIE here will yield important lessons for the whole country.

Sincerely,

John L Anderson

Contact Person: David Baker, VP External Affairs, IIT, 312-567-3561, bakerd@iit.edu.

AARP Illinois
Springfield Office
300 W. Edwards Street
3rd Floor
Springfield, IL 62704

T 1-866-448-3617
F 217-522-7803
TTY 1-877-434-7598
www.aarp.org/il

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

October 15, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

AARP Illinois is pleased to submit this letter of support for the State of Illinois Health Information Exchange (HIE). We are supportive of the expansion of health information technology (HIT) in Illinois and connectivity through a secure and HIPAA compliant HIE.

AARP recognizes that health information technology (HIT) is key to rapid quality improvement. Electronic health records (EHR) can help reduce errors by improving accuracy and legibility of prescriptions and medical records. Additionally, they can reduce redundancies and unnecessary labs and prompt medical providers to effectively use evidence-based guidelines thereby improving access to medical advancements for both clinicians and patients.

The Illinois HIE will enable medical providers to securely share patient data to improve patient care, reduce redundancies and unnecessary cost.

As a member of the Illinois HIE Advisory Committee, we are committed to improving health outcomes for not just seniors but all Illinoisans. This funding will allow Illinois to move forward with plans for a statewide HIE.

AARP works with the State of Illinois Health and Human Services Department on HIE and a variety of other projects and issues. We are confident that if properly funded the Illinois HIE will be instrumental in improving the health of our state.

Sincerely,

Bob Gallo

Bob Gallo
State Director
AARP Illinois

Chicago Office
T 1-866-448-3613
F 312-372-2204
TTY 1-877-434-7598

Jennie Chin Hansen, President
William D. Novelli, Chief Executive Officer

Illinois Public Health Institute works through partnerships to promote prevention and improve public health systems that maximize health and quality of life for the people of Illinois.

Stakeholder Advisory Committee

American Cancer Society, Illinois Division
American Red Cross of Greater Chicago
Arthritis Foundation, Greater Chicago Chapter
Asian Health Coalition of Illinois
Benedictine University
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois
Chicago Partnership for Public Health
The Honorable Elizabeth Coulson, MBA, P.T., State Representative
Decatur Community/Macon County Partnership
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians
Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention
Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators
Illinois Department of Health Care and Family Services
Illinois Department of Human Services
Illinois Department of Public Health
IDPH Minority Health Advisory Council
Illinois Hospital Association
Illinois Nurses Association
Illinois Primary Health Care Association
Illinois Public Health Association
Illinois Rural Health Association
Illinois State Board of Health
Illinois State Medical Society
Illinois Violence Prevention Authority
Institute of Medicine, Chicago
Latino Coalition for Prevention
Midwest Business Group on Health
St. Clair County Partnership
University of Illinois/Chicago School of Public Health

Illinois Public Health Institute
954 W. Washington Blvd., 4th Floor
Chicago, IL 60607
Phone: (312) 850-IPHI (4744)
Fax: (312) 850-4040
http://www.iphionline.org

October 14, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

The Illinois Public Health Institute is pleased to support the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services' (HFS) application for the federal State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program. IPHI is an active stakeholder in HIE planning in Illinois and sees successful implementation of HIE here as a critical component of advancing the quality of health care and population health interests across the state.

The Illinois Public Health Institute has worked closely with the State of Illinois on Health Information Exchange and its health information project predecessors. IPHI has served on the HIE Advisory committee for more than two years. IPHI and HFS both participated in the Illinois Health Information Security and Privacy Collaborative (HISPC) efforts. IPHI is one of two organizations working with HFS to provide technical support to the regional HIE planning process now underway.

The State of Illinois and the Department of Healthcare and Family Service are executing a well-considered and comprehensive plan for HIE adoption in Illinois, tied to best practices developed in other states but with a fundamental commitment to making HIE work in Illinois. The timing of the release of federal guidelines for meaningful use and HIE planning as expressed in the Cooperative Agreement Program allowed HFS to also bring Illinois efforts in line with federal priorities.

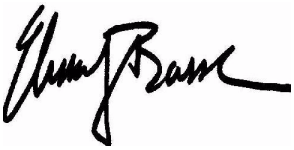
HFS, with the support of IPHI, has designed a process whereby local healthcare providers define an organic governance model, consensually adopt priorities for data exchange and meaningful use, engage stakeholders to address technical operations, address privacy and security, and connect to public health. Sixteen different regional coalitions are separately engaging on these issues, and the best practices that evolve there will be added to the national models that continuously inform our work in Illinois.

Of course, this work is complicated and supporting these collaborations is expensive. HFS has built a strong level of accountability into the regional planning process, and has modeled that accountability in their own staff development to support HIE implementation. We are confident that HFS has exercised good stewardship over scarce state revenue resources, and would do the same for federal funds from the Cooperative Agreement Program.

The Illinois Public Health Institute expects to continue to participate with HFS in a variety of ways: as a consultant to support the regional planning process, as a state-wide advocate for public health within HIE planning frameworks, and as a member of the State HIE Advisory Committee and multiple sub-committees. In addition, our work with local health departments across Illinois gives us access to important relationships the local institutions that are relatively small providers of healthcare but significant users of the information that Health Information Exchange could ultimately generate. In fact, this is a primary driver for our participation: we believe that HIE holds the promise of deeply enriching our understanding of population health, and of improving the quality and outcomes of health in Illinois.

We have a great deal of confidence in the ability of the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to deliver on the promise of Health Information Exchange, for public health and for the improvement of patient health and safety across the state.

Sincerely,



Elissa Bassler
CEO

CHICAGOLAND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

September 12, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and its 2,600 members, we are writing to express our strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois. It is our belief that statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois is vitally important in order to facilitate state participation in nationwide health information exchange. This effort will also create economic development opportunities for Illinois, spur job growth, and realize transformational health benefits for Illinois' citizens.

These efforts will be of great value to the corporate and individual citizens of the state in terms of improving the healthcare system in Illinois. This proposal is a critical step in ensuring that we continue to improve healthcare quality and outcomes, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, improve patient safety and care coordination, and control the overall cost of healthcare.

Implementation of HIE will also drive innovation in the healthcare marketplace and be an important source of new jobs in the healthcare sector. This collaborative approach will generate market opportunities for healthcare information technology and, equally important, create jobs.

We recognize that this effort is essential in order to further our state's leadership position in Health Information Exchange, pursue new economic development and technology opportunities, and help speed the adoption of electronic medical records so that Illinois is compliant with the federal goal to make all health records electronic by 2014. We are committed to ongoing collaboration with the State of Illinois to ensure that statewide integration of HIE is achieved.

The Chamber supports and understands the importance of efforts to improve the health and wellness of all our residents. We also support enhancing economic development opportunities in the region. These efforts are important for the long-term vitality of our region, as well as align with the goal of the Chamber's InnovateNow initiative, which is to transform the region into a center of innovation, entrepreneurship and creativity.

The statewide nature of this initiative and its collaborative approach, and commitment to broad-based stakeholder involvement constitute an excellent strategy for ensuring that public and private interests can efficiently partner to develop and implement the statewide Health Information Exchange, all while working to overcome obstacles to its implementation at a national level.

Sincerely,

Gerald Roper
President & CEO

200 E. Randolph Street, Suite 2200, Chicago, IL 60601 www.chicagolandchamber.org 312.494.67600 fax: 312.861.0660

ILLINOIS CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

CAPITAL CITY OFFICE
215 E Adams St
Springfield IL 62701
217 522 5512

CHICAGO OFFICE
300 S. Wacker Dr, Suite 1600
Chicago IL 60606
312 983 7100

www.ilchamber.org

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

October 15, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce, representing a diverse cross-section of over 2,700 businesses throughout Illinois, strongly supports the State of Illinois' application for HITECH funds for Health Information Exchange (HIE) planning and implementation activities.

As a statewide organization that represents businesses from all sectors of our economy, including numerous healthcare organizations, the Chamber sees tremendous value in the creation of a health information exchange that will unite all providers and healthcare entities throughout the state toward a common goal of enhancing patient care and improving health outcomes for Illinoisans through better, more efficient communications among providers. Our organization is very interested in helping develop and implement a system that can facilitate the flow of patient health information across all points of our healthcare community, not only for the opportunity to greatly enhance quality of care, but also for the opportunity to drive savings into the system.

Illinois employers spend over $25 billion annually for healthcare benefits and it is in our best interest to ensure that we receive as much value for those dollars as possible. An HIE will not only empower consumers to be better stewards of their healthcare needs, it will also reduce uncoordinated and unnecessary care that so often translates into higher costs for employers and for the system as a whole.

The State implemented the HIE planning initiative nearly a year ago with the release of a limited amount of state funds to help communities begin to develop an operational framework that will eventually give rise to statewide interoperability. Through our engagement in that process, we have seen providers at all different phases in their adoption of electronic medical records; from those that have extremely advanced EMR to those that have struggled with the adoption of EMR.

We have also engaged in meaningful discussions regarding the challenges we face in facilitating interoperability and the sharing of patient medical information across the continuum of care.

Illinois' HIE initiative has undoubtedly generated a collaborative energy that the state will be able to bolster through its HITECH HIE grant application. The Illinois Chamber believes the state is in an excellent position to optimize the HITECH funds in order to move the HIE development and implementation process forward and build upon the broad stakeholder support it has already secured.

The Illinois Chamber has been active in the state's ongoing HIE initiative and is continuing to work with numerous organizations within several medical trading areas throughout the state to develop implementation models and work through sustainability issues. Our Healthcare Council has also engaged members in ongoing discussions to promote the value of HIE while attempting to foster a strong sense of collaboration among providers, insurers, consumers, and our businesses that we believe is central to the success of HIE.

The Illinois Chamber will continue to fully support the state's HIE initiatives and we are confident in the ability of our Illinois State agencies to fulfill the requirements of the HITECH HIE grant. These agencies have already gone to great lengths to identify and engage a wide variety of stakeholders in the state's HIE initiative and we have appreciated their efforts to make the Illinois Chamber a partner in this important project. We plan to continue working closely with these state agencies and all of the stakeholders to provide advocacy and technical support wherever possible.

The Illinois Chamber shares in the state's goal of developing an effective plan for a state-level HIE that will provide for the efficient and effective delivery of high quality healthcare services for patients throughout all of our diverse communities. We truly believe that health information exchange is the key to achieving more positive health outcomes while reducing costs throughout our healthcare system.

If you have any additional questions regarding the Illinois Chamber's letter of support and our role in HIE, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail at lminzer@ilchamber.org or by telephone at (217) 522-5512, ext. 240.

Warm regards,

Laura Minzer
Executive Director
Healthcare Council
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
215 E. Adams St.
Springfield, IL 62701

Quality Quest *for* Health
of Illinois

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

October 14, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

Quality Quest for Health of Illinois is pleased to submit this letter in support of the State of Illinois' application for HITECH funds for Health Information Exchange (HIE).

As a community-based healthcare collaborative, we at Quality Quest understand the importance of bringing together communities to solve healthcare challenges. The inability of our healthcare providers in Central Illinois to communicate key data across organizational boundaries is clearly one such challenge.

During the summer of 2009, the State of Illinois issued HIE planning grants which have allowed this important work to begin. We have spent the past few months gathering information, convening key constituencies around the planning table, and beginning the discussions that will make HIE a reality across our 20-county geography.

The enthusiasm for this initiative from stakeholders across our region has been strikingly positive. While there will certainly be challenges along the path, we fully believe that the engagement and planning work that is happening now has ideally positioned Illinois to move expeditiously forward toward implementation.

The approach proposed by the State of Illinois for use of HITECH funds appropriately builds on this early experience and takes into consideration the diversity of our state. We are pleased and encouraged by this steadfast commitment to improve healthcare for every Illinois citizen; and we certainly pledge our support to continue the forward momentum.

Sincerely,

Gail M. Amundson, MD, FACP
President & CEO
Quality Quest for Health of Illinois
416 Main Street, Ste 717
Peoria, IL 61602
Tel: (309) 282-8823
Fax: (309) 637-0643
gamundson@qualityquest.org

Midwest Business Group on Health
Powerful Connections, Vital Solutions

September 9, 2009

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

RE: Letter of Support for the State of Illinois Application for HIT Funding

To whom it may concern:

The non-profit Midwest Business Group on Health is pleased to submit this letter of support for the application submitted by the State of Illinois for funds available from the HITECH Act.

MBGH is an organization that focuses on what employers can do to improve the quality and cost of health care for workforce populations. We know that, ultimately, what happens in the doctor's office and hospital, as well as the efficiency of those offices, greatly impacts the health outcomes and cost of care provided. Interoperable electronic medical record systems are a key foundation to the path leading to improved quality and efficiency. Unfortunately, less than a quarter of Illinois physicians have EMR/EHR systems in their offices.

It is our opinion that expertise and skills available to the State, both internally and from supporting organizations have the capability to assist providers in all types of settings with a timely and appropriate transition to meaningful use of health information systems.

We strongly support State's application in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Larry Boress
President & CEO

35 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60601 312-372-9090 www.mbgh.org

IFMC-IL

September 10, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Subject: Health Information Technology Extension Program: State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program

Reference: HIE stakeholder – Letter of Support

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

Illinois Foundation for Quality Health Care, doing business as IFMC-IL, is pleased to confirm its commitment, as a HIE stakeholder, to the State of Illinois. The State of Illinois is intending to apply for federal funding under the Health Information Technology Extension Program - State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program.

As you know, for almost two years, our organization has worked closely with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services in its efforts to develop plans for expanding health information exchange within our the State of Illinois. We have been a member of the statewide Health Information Exchange Advisory Council formed by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services since February of 2008. We are also engaged as a participating stakeholder in health information exchange planning in the regional medical trading areas in the state. We are strongly committed to working with the State of Illinois to support its efforts to create an infrastructure that will support interoperable health information exchange.

We wholeheartedly support your application for federal funding to further these objectives.

In the event you have any questions concerning IFMC-IL's commitment or capabilities, please do not hesitate to contact Nancy Moersch, Senior Director of Illinois Operations.

Sincerely,

Peg Mason

Peg Mason
Group Vice President

711 Jorie Blvd Suite #301 – Oak Brook, Illinois 60523-2238 – 630.928.5800
Visit us at www.ifmc.org or www.ifmc-il.org

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

I write to you on behalf of our more than 175 JEWEL/OSCO pharmacies ("SUPERVALU Pharmacies") located in Illinois serving the health care needs conveniently in local neighborhoods. We understand that the State of Illinois is planning to submit an application to receive funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for planning and implementing a Health Information Exchange ("HIE") as contemplated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's ("ARRA") Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act ("HITECH Act"). SUPERVALU fully supports the State's effort to obtain such funds, as these funds will allow for the creation of an infrastructure that "promotes the electronic exchange and use of health information"[1] amongst all providers, including pharmacists.

Pharmacies will have to make significant modifications and upgrades to existing systems to comply with many of ARRA's privacy provisions, such as the breach notification requirement, the accounting of disclosures requirement, and patient-requested restrictions on disclosure. Therefore, SUPERVALU desires to participate as a stakeholder with the State in the planning and implementation of the HIE to make sure that the collective voices and ideas of pharmacy health care providers are properly heard and considered in an effort to ensure that a national electronic patient record system is created in consideration of both public and private interests.

SUPERVALU has consistently worked with all other health care disciplines, such as PBMs, physicians, managed care organizations, insurers and government payers' in the coordination, exchange and security of patient records and health care information. As a stakeholder in planning and implementing the HIE, we believe that our pharmacy experience and expertise would be a valuable and beneficial asset to this process.

As the most consumer-accessible health care provider, particularly in medically underserved communities, pharmacy's critical role should be recognized in the development of an interoperable healthcare delivery systems. As such, we hope that you will consider SUPERVALU when determining the key stakeholders that will participate in creating the HIE process.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me at (847) 916-4237; or Randy.A.Mound@supervalu.com if I can provide further assistance.

Sincerely,

Randy A. Mound
VP Pharmacy Systems, Process Redesign & Strategy

[1] H.R.1, § 13301 (3011(a))

Walgreens

October 15, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of Walgreen Co. (Walgreens) I am writing to express our commitment to support the State of Illinois' efforts to plan and implement Health Information Exchange (HIE) pursuant to the HITECH Act.

We understand that the State of Illinois (Illinois) is applying for federal funds from the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology under the State Grants to Promote Health Information Technology. We also understand that upon the award of federal funding, the State is expected to develop a strategic and operational plan to support the implementation of HIE. As a proud Illinois company, we at Walgreens are excited about the potential that HIE will have in improving health in Illinois.

Cost effective health care is a critical issue for Illinois, and the ability to enhance the quality and efficiency of health care will significantly contribute to an improved quality of life for residents of our home state.

As you are aware, we, along with the State of Illinois, have been actively working to improve health care and its supporting infrastructure, but much work still needs to be done. As part of our commitment and support for this project, we are committed to assisting Illinois with:

1. Strategic and Operational Plan development efforts;
2. Public and client information aggregation and dissemination efforts; and
3. Adoption of nationally recognized standards for health information.

We recognize the need to transform health care and the need for a structure that is patient centric, equitable, integrated, accessible, effective and efficient. Illinois' vision for HIE will result in, among other things:

1. *Improved access to health care information for patients while safeguarding patient information (HIPAA and MIPPA);*
2. *Early detection of health conditions;*
3. *Cost-effectiveness of health care services, thereby reducing duplicative services;*
4. *Establishment of an appropriate network for clinicians, providers and patients; and*
5. *Capability to exchange electronic health records island wide and with health providers across the Nation.*

We are confident that ONC funding, supported by the input and leadership of concerned stakeholders, will be an effective catalyst in making HIE a reality for Illinois. We are also confident that implementation of HIE will improve the quality of life for all concerned by increasing health care operational efficiency and quality of care.

Very Truly Yours,

Eric P. Douglas
State Government Relations
Walgreen Co.

WALGREEN CO. GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS 104 WILMOT ROAD MS 1444 DEERFIELD, ILLINOIS 60015
www.walgreens.com

KROGER PHARMACIES

5960 Castleway Drive - Indianapolis, IN 46250

Gregory A. Fox, R.Ph.
Pharmacy Merchandiser
Central Marketing Area

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

October 16, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

As the Pharmacy Merchandiser for The Kroger Central Marketing Area Pharmacies I am writing to express strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois. It is our belief that statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois is vitally important for patients to receive appropriate and timely care.

This proposal is a critical step in ensuring that we continue to improve healthcare quality and outcomes, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, improve patient safety and care coordination, and control the overall cost of healthcare.

We recognize that this effort is essential in order to further our state's leadership position in Health Information Exchange, pursue new economic development and technology opportunities, and help speed the adoption of electronic medical records so that Illinois is compliant with the federal goal to make all health records electronic by 2014. We are committed to ongoing collaboration with the State of Illinois to ensure that statewide integration of HIE is achieved.

Kroger Pharmacies are a leader in providing excellent pharmaceutical patient care and is committed to being a national leader in pharmacy. We view pharmacy technology & patient care our some of our top priorities. To this end, Kroger is dedicated to offering our patients the best patient care and safety, while advancing medical knowledge, providing compassionate, state-of-the-art care, and training the next generation of pharmacists.

We fill thousands of prescriptions each week and have pharmacists who could share more knowledge to our patients with additional timely health information. The lack of HIE makes it very difficult to share medical record data between institutions which increases duplicative tests, expands the time to treat and make communication challenging.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. Fox

SEARS HOLDINGS

Mary Tortorice
Vice President, Deputy General Counsel
Law Department, 766X

Sears Holdings Management Corporation
3333 Beverly Road, B6-234B
Hoffman Estates, IL 60179
Direct Dial: (847) 286-2966
Email: Mary.Tortorice@searshc.com

October 15, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Blumenthal:

I am writing today to express the strong support of Kmart Pharmacy for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois. It is our belief that statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois is essential in ensuring accurate and timely care for patients.

This proposal is a critical step in the continued effort to improve healthcare quality and outcomes, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, improve patient safety and care coordination, and control the overall cost of healthcare.

We recognize that this effort is essential in order to further our state's leadership position in Health Information Exchange, pursue new economic development and technology opportunities, and help speed the adoption of electronic medical records so that Illinois is compliant with the federal goal to make all health records electronic by 2014. We are committed to ongoing collaboration with the State of Illinois to ensure that statewide integration of HIE is achieved.

On behalf of Kmart Pharmacy and our over 50 locations across the state of Illinois, I thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Mary Tortorice

Mary Tortorice
MT/crr

SIHF Southern Illinois
Healthcare Foundation

Corporate Office
2041 Goose Lake Road, Suite 1, Sauget, IL 62206
Phone: 618.332.0694 (Admin.) 618.332.0953 (Fiscal)
www.sihf.org

September 9, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation (SIHF) is the lead agency to facilitate the development of a Health Information Exchange in the Illinois Medical Trade Area #4. SIHF wholeheartedly supports the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) application to the Department of Health and Human Services to develop the State Health Information Exchange. It is generally agreed by the MTA #4 stakeholders that an electronic Health Information Exchange is needed to increase the quality and efficiency of health care.

The stakeholders in this area have worked for years with the HFS and appreciate their effort to take the lead for the state in this important endeavor. HFS is uniquely positioned within the state to promote information exchange across the health care system. Now with the ARRA funding, it is possible to develop a mechanism for exchanging this information. Due to the state's budget crisis, other resources are not available to address this need.

As the lead organization in MTA #4, Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation (SIHF) is committed to working with HFS to identify and engage key stakeholder groups in the planning process to become part of a state-wide HIE. It will also assist the State of Illinois in developing a long term plan for a sustainable HIE.

SIHF has full confidence in the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and its ability to effectively develop a statewide HIE to improve the quality and efficiency of health care services in Illinois.

Sincerely,

Larry McCulley
President

LM/ps

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS HEALTHCARE

September 11, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

It is with a great deal of enthusiasm that I take this opportunity to express the strong support of Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH) for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois. Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH) is an integrated health care system comprised of three hospitals and various outpatient care facilities that provide comprehensive inpatient, outpatient (including ambulatory surgery), and emergency services to the citizens of Southern Illinois. It is our belief that statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois is vitally important in order to facilitate state participation in nationwide health information exchange. This effort will also create economic development opportunities for Illinois, spur job growth, and realize transformational health benefits for Illinois' citizens.

Southern Illinois Healthcare is implementing a strategy, in collaboration with the state and many regional stakeholders in southernmost Illinois, which will lead to increased data capture and sharing, advanced clinical processes, and improved health outcomes for the residents of the region. I am very excited to see the progress being made to plan for a state-wide Health Information Exchange in Illinois, and the approach to fully engage local and regional providers in the planning process led by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services. Personnel from SIH have provided substantial leadership in the development of this effort in southernmost Illinois.

These efforts will be of great value to the corporate and individual citizens of the state in terms of improving the healthcare system in Illinois. This proposal is a critical step in ensuring that we continue to improve healthcare quality and outcomes, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, improve patient safety and care coordination, and control the overall cost of healthcare.

Implementation of HIE will also drive innovation in the healthcare marketplace and be an important source of new jobs in the healthcare sector. This collaborative approach will generate market opportunities for healthcare information technology and, equally important, create jobs.

We recognize that this effort is essential in order to further Illinois' leadership position in Health Information Exchange, pursue new economic development and technology opportunities, and help speed the adoption of electronic medical records so that Illinois is compliant with the federal goal to make all health records electronic by 2014. We are committed to ongoing collaboration with the State of Illinois to ensure that statewide integration of HIE is achieved.

Executive Administration
1239 East Main Street | PO Box 3988
Carbondale, IL 62902-3988
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FAX 618-529-0568
www.sih.net

The statewide nature of this initiative and its collaborative approach, and commitment to broad-based stakeholder involvement constitute an excellent strategy for ensuring that public and private interests can efficiently partner to develop and implement the statewide Health Information Exchange, all while working to overcome obstacles to its implementation at a national level.

In summary, as SIH works to accomplish its mission of "improving the health and well-being of all of the people in the communities we serve," we view this work of collaboratively promoting the adoption and working towards fully implementing Health Information Technology as a key to our being successful in these efforts.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the important effort ongoing in Illinois to interconnect healthcare providers through a Health Information Exchange. Please feel free to contact me if you should have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Rex P. Budde, President/CEO
Southern Illinois Healthcare
1239 East Main Street
Carbondale, IL 62901
Ph: (618) 457-5200, ext. 67100
Fax: (618) 529-0568
rex.budde@sih.net

connectSI
crossing boundaries
3000 W. DeYoung Street, Suite 800-B | Marion, IL 62959
618-998-0970 Ext. 237 | www.connectsi.us

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

October 9, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

Connect SI is actively participating in the development of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) to service the patients and population of southern Illinois. Each year in Illinois, over 12 million people depend on our healthcare system to ensure their medical needs are covered. People visit their doctor, pick up prescriptions at pharmacies and receive services at provider-based public health clinics.

The creation of an Illinois HIE that provides coordination of care and the sharing of heath care services has long been recognized as a powerful strategy to enhance patient care and improve the outcome in the delivery of health care services. Connect SI envisions tremendous value in the creation of a statewide HIE in Illinois that unites partners across our communities. We also recognize the issue as an urgent public policy need and are ready to assist the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services (IDHFS) through our active participation in the development of an HIE strategy that encompasses southern Illinois and integrates with other state HIE efforts.

The IDHFS has been instrumental in working to coordinate activities on a statewide basis to establish the necessary components for the successful Illinois HIE and they enjoy the full and active support and participation of Connect SI in this endeavor. Connect SI supports their application for HIE funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and ask your full and active consideration for funding the statewide HIE in Illinois

Sincerely,

Kathy Lively
Executive Director
Connect SI
3000 W DeYoung St, Ste 800B
Marion, IL 62959
618-998-0970 x237
kathylively@mantracon.org

BLESSING HOSPITAL

www.blessinghealthsystem.org

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

October 9, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

Blessing Hospital is very interested in addressing the need for health information exchange in the state of Illinois, as well as the country. Our organization's vision is to provide high quality, accessible health care to the people in our region. The ability to share data across providers would certainly move us toward this vision and to improved patient outcomes.

Blessing Hospital's journey with an electronic medical record started seven years ago, and we continue to expand our capabilities. Our motto has been "any place, anytime, anywhere" a clinician should be able to access the necessary information. To know the entire patient story, this information could come from any number of providers. We are looking forward to this type of healthcare collaboration and have stepped up in our community. Blessing Hospital is the lead organization in Illinois' Medical Trading Area (MTA) #11, working with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to plan for a state wide Health Information Exchange (HIE.)

Our organizational goal of improved patient outcomes is the core reason we are fully supporting the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services' application for the State Health Information Exchange Program. This grant is necessary to advance the planning efforts of our MTA's within Illinois. These funds will help the state by building on the work accomplished at the local MTA level to secure stakeholder involvement and develop the governance structures and social capital necessary to achieve a state-level HIE in the future.

Blessing Hospital has the desire to be involved in Illinois' HIE efforts, and will:

- Commit personnel to the planning process
- Commit personnel to educational conferences/activities
- Provide space for stakeholder meetings
- Provide the use of videoconferencing equipment for stakeholder meetings

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VHA United to Improve America's Health®

- Assist in the development of a sustainable business plan during the HIE process
- Commit to analyzing/reviewing the ever changing landscape of information about electronic health records as these records become the norm
- Involve and educate all levels of our organization (compliance, legal, quality assurance, clinical services, etc) about HIE and electronic records
- Assist in evaluating the benefit of HIE to patient safety, quality of care, cost of care, etc.
- Assist in addressing concerns related to HIE and patient privacy and confidentiality
- If feasible, allocate resources to help sustain the HIE system in Illinois

Blessing Hospital has confidence that the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services will work with the healthcare organizations of Illinois, through the MTA regions, in creating a state wide HIE. Through this collaboration we can ensure efficient and effective use of the grant funds.

The HIE point of contact within Blessing Hospital is:

Lea Ann Eickelschulte
Administrative Director, Information Technology
Blessing Hospital
1005 Broadway
Quincy, IL 62301
(217) 223-8400 x6779 phone
(217) 224-6516 fax
LeaAnn.Eickelschulte@BlessingHospital.com

The Blessing Hospital mission is to provide high quality accessible healthcare to those that we serve. This Health Information Exchange project will provide a framework and the tools to aid all providers in Illinois to achieve this goal by designing the process to share vital information. In our journey with Information Technology we have seen the benefits and values of the electronic medical record.

Sincerely,

Maureen A. Kahn, RN MHA MSN
President/CEO

CENTER FOR BUSINESS MODELS IN HEALTHCARE

www.centerforbusinessmodels.com
773 368 7279 weldon@centerforbusinessmodels.com

September 4, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of the Center for Business Models in Healthcare we are writing to express our strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois. It is our belief that statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois is vitally important in order to facilitate state participation in nationwide health information exchange. This effort will also realize transformational health benefits for Illinois' citizens.

This proposal is a critical step in ensuring that we continue to improve healthcare quality and outcomes, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, improve patient safety and care coordination, and control the overall cost of healthcare. Implementation of HIE will also drive innovation in the healthcare marketplace and be an important source of new jobs in the healthcare sector. This collaborative approach will generate market opportunities for healthcare information technology and, equally important, create jobs.

The Center for Business Models in Healthcare is dedicated to research, creation and integration of new business models in Healthcare to help accelerate the advancement, adoption and delivery of Personalized Medicine and related innovations. Through the business model innovation and experimentation, the Center and its members contribute to the greater readiness of Healthcare systems for the delivery of Personalized Medicine to the population, and also help accelerate the development of Personalized Medicine innovations. Innovation in personalized medicine relies heavily on medical records and information that is transferable between institutions. Our work with Stroger Hospital, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, St. Antony Medical Center and Ingalls Health system is challenged by the lack of compatibility between their medical records. The statewide HIE would resolve such challenges.

Sincerely,

Christine B. Weldon
Executive Director
Center for Business Models in Healthcare / Executive Frameworks, Ltd
2705 W Agatite Ave, Ste 2
Chicago, IL 606025-3801

773 368 7279
Fax 773 913 6507
Weldon@centerforbusinessmodels.com

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www.tririvers.org

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Wednesday, September 09, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

TriRivers Health Partners a joint venture Health Information Technology organization sponsored by FHN, formerly Freeport Health Network, Freeport, IL and SwedishAmerican Health System, Rockford, IL is actively participating in the development of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) to service the patients and population of Illinois. Each year in Illinois, more than 12 million people depend on our healthcare system to ensure that their medical needs are covered. They visit their doctors, they pick up their prescriptions at pharmacies and they receive services at provider-based and public health clinic locations.

The creation of an Illinois HIE that provides improvement in the coordination of care and the sharing of health information among providers of health care services has long been recognized as a powerful strategy to enhance patient care and improve the outcome in the delivery of health care services. We see tremendous value in the creation of a statewide HIE in Illinois that unites providers across our communities. We also recognize this issue as an urgent public policy need and we are ready to assist and help the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services (IDHFS) through our active participation in the development of a HIE strategy that encompasses Northern Illinois and integrates with other state HIE efforts.

TriRivers Health Partners is already assisting the IDHFS in HIE planning. Combined with our active involvement and participation with Northern Illinois University in the Illinois Rural HealthNET (IRHN) to support the development of broadband telecommunications for Illinois rural health care organizations we feel very confident that our planning process will lead to an advanced capability for the establishment of an HIE for the sharing of health care information for providers in Illinois and we stand ready to assist in any means possible. This includes working with any and all appropriate partners on a statewide basis to assure that a successful HIE emerges within the State of Illinois.

The IDHFS have been instrumental in working to coordinate activities on a statewide basis to establish the necessary components for the successful Illinois HIE and they enjoy the full and active support and participation of TriRivers Health Partners in this endeavor. We support their application for HIE funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and ask for your full and active consideration of any application for funding the statewide HIE in Illinois.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Phil Wasson, FACHE
Vice President & CIO
TriRivers Health Partners
Phone: (815) 315-6868
Email: pwasson@tririvers.org

100 E. LeFevre Road
Sterling, IL 61081-1279
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Website:www.cghmc.com

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

September 10, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

CGH Medical Center is working in collaboration with TriRivers Health Partners, a Rockford based Health I.T. organization is actively participating in the development of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) to service the patients and population of Illinois. Each year in Illinois, more than 12 million people depend on our healthcare system to ensure that their medical needs are covered. They visit their doctors, they pick up their prescriptions at pharmacies and they receive services at provider-based and public health clinic locations.

The creation of an Illinois HIE that provides improvement in the coordination of care and the sharing of health information among providers of health care services has long been recognized as a powerful strategy to enhance patient care and improve the outcome in the delivery of health care services. We envision tremendous value in the creation of a statewide HIE in Illinois that unites providers across our communities. We also recognize this issue as an urgent public policy need and we are ready to assist and help the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services (IDHFS) through our active participation in the development of a HIE strategy that encompasses Northern Illinois and integrates with other state HIE efforts.

CGH Medical Center is already assisting the IDHFS in HIE planning. Working in a collaborative effort with TriRivers Health Partners and over 30 stakeholders in our area of Illinois we feel very confident that our planning process will lead to an advanced capability for the establishment of an HIE for the sharing of health care information among providers and patients in Illinois and we stand ready to assist in any means possible. This includes working with any and all appropriate partners on a statewide basis to assure that a successful HIE emerges within the State of Illinois.

The IDHFS have been instrumental in working to coordinate activities on a statewide basis to establish the necessary components for the successful Illinois HIE and they enjoy the full and active support and participation of both FHN and TriRivers Health Partners in this endeavor. We support their application for HIE funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and ask for your full and active consideration of any application for funding the statewide HIE in Illinois.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Raymond P. Sharp

Raymond P. Sharp
Vice President & CIO
CGH Medical Center
100 East LeFevre Road
Sterling, IL 61081
815 625-0400 x4414
rsharp@cghmc.com

MCH

MENDOTA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

1315 Memorial Drive • Mendota, Illinois 61342 • Phone: 815-539-7461 • Fax: 815-538-5516 • www.mendotahospital.org

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

September 10, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

Mendota Community Hospital, working in collaboration with TriRivers Health Partners, a Rockford based Health I.T. organization is actively participating in the development of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) to service the patients and population of Illinois. Each year in Illinois, more than 12 million people depend on our healthcare system to ensure that their medical needs are covered. They visit their doctors, they pick up their prescriptions at pharmacies and they receive services at provider-based and public health clinic locations.

The creation of an Illinois HIE that provides improvement in the coordination of care and the sharing of health information among providers of health care services has long been recognized as a powerful strategy to enhance patient care and improve the outcome in the delivery of health care services. We envision tremendous value in the creation of a statewide HIE in Illinois that unites providers across our communities. We also recognize this issue as an urgent public policy need and we are ready to assist and help the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services (IDHFS) through our active participation in the development of a HIE strategy that encompasses Northern Illinois and integrates with other state HIE efforts.

Mendota Community Hospital is already assisting the IDHFS in HIE planning. Working in a collaborative effort with TriRivers Health Partners and over 30 stakeholders in our area of Illinois we feel very confident that our planning process will lead to an advanced capability for the establishment of an HIE for the sharing of health care information among providers and patients in Illinois and we stand ready to assist in any means possible. This includes working with any and all appropriate partners on a statewide basis to assure that a successful HIE emerges within the State of Illinois.

The IDHFS have been instrumental in working to coordinate activities on a statewide basis to establish the necessary components for the successful Illinois HIE and they enjoy the full and active support and participation of both FHN and TriRivers Health Partners in this endeavor. We support their application for HIE funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and ask for your full and active consideration of any application for funding the statewide HIE in Illinois.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Larry Peach
Assistant Administrator/CFO
Mendota Community Hospital
1315 Memorial Drive
Mendota, IL 61342
815-539-7461
lpeach@mendotahospital.org

Kish*Health* System

One Kish Hospital Drive • P.O. Box 707 • DeKalb, IL 60115
815.756.1521 • Fax: 815.756.7665 • www.kishhealth.org

September 10, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independent Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

Kish*Health* System (KHS), consisting of Kishwaukee Community and Valley West Community Hospitals in DeKalb and Sandwich, Illinois respectively is very interested in addressing the State of Illinois request for Federal Health Information Exchange (HIE) Funds and their effort to accelerate the initiatives for statewide data exchange for our healthcare institutions.

Health and Family Services (HFS) of Illinois has made HIE an important part of their strategies for both this year and beyond. Earlier this year HFS awarded planning grant dollars that has helped initiate lively and beneficial conversations amongst regional healthcare providers about the exchange of health information. It has quickly become apparent in our region that the sustainability of such efforts will be daunting, but the initial setup cost will be even more challenging. HFS intends to use the funds to further the efforts being contemplated across the state. Without the additional funding sources to seed these Regional HIE efforts we will see many groups disband and not achieve the ultimate goal of enhancing patient care within the state of Illinois.

As is being debated on a National level the need for seamless exchanges of data on patients between providers is essential to the ongoing improvement in the health of our patients and reduction of cost within the industry. Without placing all data within reach of the appropriate care providers we will continue to foster duplication of services and extemporaneous testing. HIE can be the answer to this provided they connect appropriately all care providers. Kish*Health* System is already on the road to creating a local HIE within our care area. At the same time, we are participating on the Governing Board for the Regional HIE in our area. This regional board is thinking broader than just the Northern Illinois Region and is intentionally trying to build a sustainable model that is capable of connecting not only regionally but also on a state and national level.

HHS has shown their commitment to HIE projects across the State through participation and funding so far. We are confident that by receiving this grant they will work with all stakeholders in an effort to push Illinois into the next generation of healthcare delivery through the use of HIE.

We strongly encourage you to award HFS the grant for HIE to support these efforts.

Sincerely,

Heath Bell
CIO and VP
Kish*Health* System
Illinois
One Kish Hospital Drive, DeKalb, IL 60115
Phone: (815) 756-1521, ext. 153670
Fax: (815) 748-8337
Email: hbell@kishhealth.org

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JO DAVIESS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

9483 US RT. 20 WEST • P. O. BOX 318 • GALENA, ILLINOIS 61036 • (815) 777-0263

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

September 10, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

The Jo Daviess County Health Department, working in collaboration with TriRivers Health Partners, a Rockford based Health I.T. organization is actively participating in the development of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) to service the patients and population of Illinois. Each year in Illinois, more than 12 million people depend on our healthcare system to ensure that their medical needs are covered. They visit their doctors, they pick up their prescriptions at pharmacies and they receive services at provider-based and public health clinic locations.

The creation of an Illinois HIE that provides improvement in the coordination of care and the sharing of health information among providers of health care services has long been recognized as a powerful strategy to enhance patient care and improve the outcome in the delivery of health care services. We envision tremendous value in the creation of a statewide HIE in Illinois that unites providers across our communities. We also recognize this issue as an urgent public policy need and we are ready to assist and help the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services (IDHFS) through our active participation in the development of a HIE strategy that encompasses Northern Illinois and integrates with other state HIE efforts.

The Jo Daviess County Health Department is already assisting the IDHFS in HIE planning. Working in a collaborative effort with TriRivers Health Partners and over 30 stakeholders in our area of Illinois we feel very confident that our planning process will lead to an advanced capability for the establishment of an HIE for the sharing of health care information among providers and patients in Illinois and we stand ready to assist in any means possible. This includes working with any and all appropriate partners on a statewide basis to assure that a successful HIE emerges within the State of Illinois.

The IDHFS have been instrumental in working to coordinate activities on a statewide basis to establish the necessary components for the successful Illinois HIE and they enjoy the full and active support and participation of both FHN and TriRivers Health Partners in this endeavor. We support their application for HIE funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and ask for your full and active consideration of any application for funding the statewide HIE in Illinois.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Peggy Murphy, RN, BSN, MPH
Administrator
healthadmin@jodaviess.org

We're here. For you.
FHN

THOMSON
TOP HOSPITALS
National
2007

September 9, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

FHN, formerly Freeport Health Network, through TriRivers Health Partners, its Health I.T. organization is actively participating in the development of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) to service the patients and population of Illinois. Each year in Illinois, more than 12 million people depend on our healthcare system to ensure that their medical needs are covered. They visit their doctors, they pick up their prescriptions at pharmacies and they receive services at provider-based and public health clinic locations.

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If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Perry, MD
President & CEO
FHN
Phone: (815) 599-6458
Email: mperry@fhn.org

DeKalb County Health Department

Karen A. Grush
Public Health Administrator

2550 North Annie Glidden Road • DeKalb, Illinois 60115
PHONE: (815) 758-6673

September 10, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

DeKalb County Health Department is supporting the efforts of TriRivers Health Partners, a Rockford based Health I.T. organization, actively participating in the development of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) to service the patients and population of Illinois. Each year in Illinois, more than 12 million people depend on our healthcare system to ensure that their medical needs are covered. They visit their doctors, they pick up their prescriptions at pharmacies and they receive services at provider-based and public health clinic locations.

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The DeKalb County Health Department is already assisting the IDHFS in HIE planning. Working in a collaborative effort with TriRivers Health Partners and over 30 stakeholders in our area of Illinois we feel very confident that our planning process will lead to an advanced capability for the establishment of an HIE for the sharing of health care information among providers and patients in Illinois and we stand ready to assist in any means possible. This includes working with any and all appropriate partners on a statewide basis to assure that a successful HIE emerges within the State of Illinois.

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Sincerely,

Karen Grush, Administrator
DeKalb County Health Department
2550 North Annie Glidden Rd.
DeKalb, Illinois 60115
kgrush@dekalbcounty.org

CRUSADER COMMUNITY Health

Mailing Address
1200 West State Street
Rockford, Illinois 61102-2112

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www.crusaderhealth.org

Locations: **Rockford** Crusader Community Health on West State Street – Woodward Campus for Community Healthcare
Rockford Crusader Community Health on Broadway – Uram Building
Belvidere Crusader Community Health Belvidere

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

September 11, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

Crusaders Central Clinic Association working in collaboration with TriRivers Health Partners, a Rockford based Health I.T. organization is actively participating in the development of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) to service the patients and population of Illinois. Each year in Illinois, more than 12 million people depend on our healthcare system to ensure that their medical needs are covered. They visit their doctors, they pick up their prescriptions at pharmacies and they receive services at provider-based and public health clinic locations.

The creation of an Illinois HIE that provides improvement in the coordination of care and the sharing of health information among providers of health care services has long been recognized as a powerful strategy to enhance patient care and improve the outcome in the delivery of health care services. We envision tremendous value in the creation of a statewide HIE in Illinois that unites providers across our communities. We also recognize this issue as an urgent public policy need and we are ready to assist and help the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services (IDHFS) through our active participation in the development of a HIE strategy that encompasses Northern Illinois and integrates with other state HIE efforts.

Crusaders Central Clinic Association is already assisting the IDHFS in HIE planning. Working in a collaborative effort with TriRivers Health Partners and over 30 stakeholders in our area of Illinois we feel very confident that our planning process will lead to an advanced capability for the establishment of an HIE for the sharing of health care information among providers and patients in Illinois and we stand ready to assist in any means possible. This includes working with any and all appropriate partners on a statewide basis to assure that a successful HIE emerges within the State of Illinois.

The IDHFS have been instrumental in working to coordinate activities on a statewide basis to establish the necessary components for the successful Illinois HIE and they enjoy the full and active support and participation of both FHN and TriRivers Health Partners in this endeavor. We support their application for HIE funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and ask for your full and active consideration of any application for funding the statewide HIE in Illinois.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Samuel G. Miller, CFO
Crusaders Central Clinic Association
1200 West State Street
Rockford, IL
815.490.1601
smiller@crusaderhealth.org

St. Margaret's Health

St. Margaret's Hospital

SMP Health System

600 East First Street
Spring Valley, IL 61362
(815) 664-5311
(815) 223-5346
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David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

September 10, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

St. Margaret's Health, working in collaboration with TriRivers Health Partners, a Rockford based Health I.T. organization is actively participating in the development of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) to service the patients and population of Illinois. Each year in Illinois, more than 12 million people depend on our healthcare system to ensure that their medical needs are covered. They visit their doctors, they pick up their prescriptions at pharmacies and they receive services at provider-based and public health clinic locations.

The creation of an Illinois HIE that provides improvement in the coordination of care and the sharing of health information among providers of health care services has long been recognized as a powerful strategy to enhance patient care and improve the outcome in the delivery of health care services. We envision tremendous value in the creation of a statewide HIE in Illinois that unites providers across our communities. We also recognize this issue as an urgent public policy need and we are ready to assist and help the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services (IDHFS) through our active participation in the development of a HIE strategy that encompasses Northern Illinois and integrates with other state HIE efforts.

St. Margaret's Health is already assisting the IDHFS in HIE planning. Working in a collaborative effort with TriRivers Health Partners and over 30 stakeholders in our area of Illinois we feel very confident that our planning process will lead to an advanced capability for the establishment of an HIE for the sharing of health care information among providers and patients in Illinois and we stand ready to assist in any means possible. This includes working with any and all appropriate partners on a statewide basis to assure that a successful HIE emerges within the State of Illinois.

The IDHFS have been instrumental in working to coordinate activities on a statewide basis to establish the necessary components for the successful Illinois HIE and they enjoy the full and active support and participation of both FHN and TriRivers Health Partners in this endeavor. We support their application for HIE funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and ask for your full and active consideration of any application for funding the statewide HIE in Illinois.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Kim D. Santman
Vice President of Finance
St. Margaret's Health
600 E. 1st St.
Spring Valley, IL 61362
815-664-1328
ksantman@aboutsmh.org

DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH **Pat Quinn, Governor**

Singer Mental Health Center **Carol Adams, PhD, Secretary**

David Blumenthal MD, MPP September 10, 2009
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

Singer Mental Health Center, working in collaboration with TriRivers Health Partners, a Rockford based Health I.T. organization is actively participating in the development of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) to service the patients and population of Illinois. Each year in Illinois, more than 12 million people depend on our healthcare system to ensure that their medical needs are covered. They visit their doctors, they pick up their prescriptions at pharmacies and they receive services at provider-based and public health clinic locations.

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Singer Mental Health Center is already assisting the IDHFS in HIE planning. Working in a collaborative effort with TriRivers Health Partners and over 30 stakeholders in our area of Illinois we feel very confident that our planning process will lead to an advanced capability for the establishment of an HIE for the sharing of health care information among providers and patients in Illinois and we stand ready to assist in any means possible. This includes working with any and all appropriate partners on a statewide basis to assure that a successful HIE emerges within the State of Illinois.

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If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Richard Apple

Quality Manager, richard.apple@illinois.gov

SWEDISHAMERICAN HEALTH SYSTEM

Winner Of The Lincoln Award For Excellence

WILLIAM R. GORSKI, M.D.
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SwedishAmerican Hospital
SwedishAmerican Medical Group/Belvidere
SwedishAmerican Medical Group/Brookside
SwedishAmerican Medical Group/Byron
SwedishAmerican Medical Group/Davis Junction
SwedishAmerican Medical Group/Five Points
SwedishAmerican Medical Group/Midtown
SwedishAmerican Medical Group/Northwest
SwedishAmerican Medical Group/Roscoe
SwedishAmerican Medical Group/Valley
SwedishAmerican Medical Group/Woodside
SwedishAmerican Camelot OB/GYN
SwedishAmerican Camelot Pediatrics
SwedishAmerican Breast Health Center
SwedishAmerican Health Alliance
SwedishAmerican Health Management Corporation
SwedishAmerican Home Health Care
SwedishAmerican Immediate Care
SwedishAmerican Infusion Services/DME
SwedishAmerican Medical Foundation
SwedishAmerican MSO
SwedishAmerican Realty
Greater Rockford Hematology/Oncology Center
Midwest Center For Health And Healing
Medical Arts Center
Medworks
Northern Illinois Health Care Network
Northern Illinois Surgery Center

September 10, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

SwedishAmerican Health System (SAHS), working in collaboration with TriRivers Health Partners, a Rockford based Health I.T. organization is actively participating in the development of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) to service the patients and population of Illinois. Each year in Illinois, more than 12 million people depend on our healthcare system to ensure that their medical needs are covered. They visit their doctors, they pick up their prescriptions at pharmacies and they receive services at provider-based and public health clinic locations.

The creation of an Illinois HIE that provides improvement in the coordination of care and the sharing of health information among providers of health care services has long been recognized as a powerful strategy to enhance patient care and improve the outcome in the delivery of health care services. We envision tremendous value in the creation of a statewide HIE in Illinois that unites providers across our communities. We also recognize this issue as an urgent public policy need and we are ready to assist and help the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services (IDHFS) through our active participation in the development of a HIE strategy that encompasses Northern Illinois and integrates with other state HIE efforts.

SAHS is already assisting the IDHFS in HIE planning. Working in a collaborative effort with TriRivers Health Partners and over 30 stakeholders in our area of Illinois we feel very confident that our planning process will lead to an advanced capability for the establishment of an HIE for the sharing of health care information among providers and patients in Illinois and we stand ready to assist in any means possible. This includes working with any and all appropriate partners on a statewide basis to assure that a successful HIE emerges within the State of Illinois.

The IDHFS have been instrumental in working to coordinate activities on a statewide basis to establish the necessary components for the successful Illinois HIE and they enjoy the full and active support and participation of both FHN and TriRivers Health Partners in this endeavor. We support their application for HIE funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and ask for your full and active consideration of any application for funding the statewide HIE in Illinois.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Bill Gorski, M.D.

1313 East State Street, Rockford, Illinois 61104-2227 Phone (815) 489-4000 Fax (815) 967-5423 www.swedishamerican.org

Rochelle
Community Hospital

900 N. Second Street • Rochelle, IL 61068
Ph. (815) 562-2181 • Fax. (815) 561-3120

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

September 10th, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

Rochelle Community Hospital, working in collaboration with TriRivers Health Partners, a Rockford based Health I.T. organization is actively participating in the development of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) to service the patients and population of Illinois. Each year in Illinois, more than 12 million people depend on our healthcare system to ensure that their medical needs are covered. They visit their doctors, they pick up their prescriptions at pharmacies and they receive services at provider-based and public health clinic locations.

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Rochelle Community Hospital is already assisting the IDHFS in HIE planning. Working in a collaborative effort with TriRivers Health Partners and over 30 stakeholders in our area of Illinois we feel very confident that our planning process will lead to an advanced capability for the establishment of an HIE for the sharing of health care information among providers and patients in Illinois and we stand ready to assist in any means possible. This includes working with any and all appropriate partners on a statewide basis to assure that a successful HIE emerges within the State of Illinois.

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If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Scott Stewart
Manager Information Services
Rochelle Community Hospital
900 N. 2nd Street
Rochelle, Illinois 61068
815/562-2181 x1540
Sstewart@rcha.net

ROCKFORD HEALTH
system
IT'S CALLED COMMITMENT

Corporate Offices
Rockford Medical Building
2350 North Rockton Avenue, Suite 402
Rockford, Illinois 61103

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

September 10, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

Rockford Health System, working in collaboration with TriRivers Health Partners, a Rockford based Health I.T. organization is actively participating in the development of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) to service the patients and population of Illinois. Each year in Illinois, more than 12 million people depend on our healthcare system to ensure that their medical needs are covered. They visit their doctors, they pick up their prescriptions at pharmacies and they receive services at provider-based and public health clinic locations.

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Rockford Health System is already assisting the IDHFS in HIE planning. Working in a collaborative effort with TriRivers Health Partners and over 30 stakeholders in our area of Illinois we feel very confident that our planning process will lead to an advanced capability for the establishment of an HIE for the sharing of health care information among providers and patients in Illinois and we stand ready to assist in any means possible. This includes working with any and all appropriate partners on a statewide basis to assure that a successful HIE emerges within the State of Illinois.

The IDHFS have been instrumental in working to coordinate activities on a statewide basis to establish the necessary components for the successful Illinois HIE and they enjoy the full and active support and participation of both FHN and TriRivers Health Partners in this endeavor. We support their application for HIE funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and ask for your full and active consideration of any application for funding the statewide HIE in Illinois.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Dennis L'Heureux, Sr. VP & CIO
Rockford Health System
2400 N. Rockton Avenue
Rockford, IL 60013
(815) 971-7405
dlheureux@rhsnet.org

PROVENA
Senior Services

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

September 11, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

Provena Health – Provena Senior Services, working in collaboration with TriRivers Health Partners, a Rockford based Health I.T. organization is actively participating in the development of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) to service the patients and population of Illinois. Each year in Illinois, more than 12 million people depend on our healthcare system to ensure that their medical needs are covered. They visit their doctors, they pick up their prescriptions at pharmacies and they receive services at provider-based and public health clinic locations.

The creation of an Illinois HIE that provides improvement in the coordination of care and the sharing of health information among providers of health care services has long been recognized as a powerful strategy to enhance patient care and improve the outcome in the delivery of health care services. We envision tremendous value in the creation of a statewide HIE in Illinois that unites providers across our communities. We also recognize this issue as an urgent public policy need and we are ready to assist and help the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services (IDHFS) through our active participation in the development of a HIE strategy that encompasses Northern Illinois and integrates with other state HIE efforts.

Provena Health – Provena Senior Services, is already assisting the IDHFS in HIE planning. Working in a collaborative effort with TriRivers Health Partners and over 30 stakeholders in our area of Illinois we feel very confident that our planning process will lead to an advanced capability for the establishment of an HIE for the sharing of health care information among providers and patients in Illinois and we stand ready to assist in any means possible. This includes working with any and all appropriate partners on a statewide basis to assure that a successful HIE emerges within the State of Illinois.

The IDHFS have been instrumental in working to coordinate activities on a statewide basis to establish the necessary components for the successful Illinois HIE and they enjoy the full and active support and participation of both FHN and TriRivers Health Partners in this endeavor. We support their application for HIE funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and ask for your full and active consideration of any application for funding the statewide HIE in Illinois.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Karen Cieslak, RN, Senior Application Analyst
3330 Maria Linden Drive
Rockford, Illinois
815 877-7416
Karen.Cieslak@Provena.org

Perry Memorial Hospital

530 Park Avenue East • Princeton, Illinois 61356 • 815-875-2811 • www.perry-memorial.org

September 10, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

Perry Memorial Hospital, working in collaboration with TriRivers Health Partners, a Rockford based Health I.T. organization is actively participating in the development of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) to service the patients and population of Illinois. Each year in Illinois, more than 12 million people depend on our healthcare system to ensure that their medical needs are covered. They visit their doctors, they pick up their prescriptions at pharmacies and they receive services at provider-based and public health clinic locations.

The creation of an Illinois HIE that provides improvement in the coordination of care and the sharing of health information among providers of health care services has long been recognized as a powerful strategy to enhance patient care and improve the outcome in the delivery of health care services. We envision tremendous value in the creation of a statewide HIE in Illinois that unites providers across our communities. We also recognize this issue as an urgent public policy need and we are ready to assist and help the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services (IDHFS) through our active participation in the development of a HIE strategy that encompasses Northern Illinois and integrates with other state HIE efforts.

Perry Memorial Hospital, is already assisting the IDHFS in HIE planning. Working in a collaborative effort with TriRivers Health Partners and over 30 stakeholders in our area of Illinois we feel very confident that our planning process will lead to an advanced capability for the establishment of an HIE for the sharing of health care information among providers and patients in Illinois and we stand ready to assist in any means possible. This includes working with any and all appropriate partners on a statewide basis to assure that a successful HIE emerges within the State of Illinois.

The IDHFS have been instrumental in working to coordinate activities on a statewide basis to establish the necessary components for the successful Illinois HIE and they enjoy the full and active support and participation of both FHN and TriRivers Health Partners in this endeavor. We support their application for HIE funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and ask for your full and active consideration of any application for funding the statewide HIE in Illinois.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Rex D. Conger
President/CEO

ILLINOIS SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY COALITION

200 East Randolph, Suite 2200
Chicago, IL 60601
T 312 494 6747
F 312 861 0660
istcoalition.org

September 10, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of the Illinois Science & Technology Coalition (ISTC), I am writing to express our strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois. It is our belief that statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois is vitally important in order to facilitate state participation in nationwide health information exchange. This effort will also create economic development opportunities for Illinois, spur job growth, and realize transformational health benefits for Illinois' citizens.

The Illinois Science & Technology Coalition cultivates economic development in Illinois by increasing resources for Research & Development initiatives at Illinois-based institutions and businesses. Healthcare transformations are a priority to the ISTC as implementation of HIE will drive innovation in the healthcare marketplace and be an important source of new jobs in the healthcare sector. This collaborative approach will generate market opportunities for healthcare information technology and, equally important, create jobs.

As the ISTC works to foster collaborations throughout the State and celebrate the wide-ranging achievements of researchers and innovators we recognize that the State of Illinois' HIE effort is essential in order to strengthen our state's leadership position in Health Information Exchange, pursue new economic development and technology opportunities, and help speed the adoption of electronic medical records so that Illinois is among the first states to achieve the federal goal to make all health records electronic by 2014.

We believe this proposal is a critical step in ensuring that we continue to improve healthcare quality and outcomes, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, improve patient safety and care coordination, and control the overall cost of healthcare. In addition, the statewide nature of this initiative and its collaborative approach, and commitment to broad-based stakeholder involvement constitute an excellent strategy for ensuring that public and private interests can efficiently partner to develop and implement the statewide Health Information Exchange, all while working to overcome obstacles to its implementation at a national level.

Sincerely,

Matthew Summy
President & CEO

KSB HOSPITAL

KATHERINE SHAW BETHEA HOSPITAL

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

September 17, 2009

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital, working in collaboration with TriRivers Health Partners, a Rockford based Health I.T. organization is actively participating in the development of a Health Information Exchange (HIE) to service the patients and population of Illinois. Each year in Illinois, more than 12 million people depend on our healthcare system to ensure that their medical needs are covered. They visit their doctors, they pick up their prescriptions at pharmacies and they receive services at provider-based and public health clinic locations.

The creation of an Illinois HIE that provides improvement in the coordination of care and the sharing of health information among providers of health care services has long been recognized as a powerful strategy to enhance patient care and improve the outcome in the delivery of health care services. We envision tremendous value in the creation of a statewide HIE in Illinois that unites providers across our communities. We also recognize this issue as an urgent public policy need and we are ready to assist and help the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services (IDHFS) through our active participation in the development of a HIE strategy that encompasses Northern Illinois and integrates with other state HIE efforts.

Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital is already assisting the IDHFS in HIE planning. Working in a collaborative effort with TriRivers Health Partners and over 30 stakeholders in our area of Illinois we feel very confident that our planning process will lead to an advanced capability for the establishment of an HIE for the sharing of health care information among providers and patients in Illinois and we stand ready to assist in any means possible. This includes working with any and all appropriate partners on a statewide basis to assure that a successful HIE emerges within the State of Illinois.

The IDHFS have been instrumental in working to coordinate activities on a statewide basis to establish the necessary components for the successful Illinois HIE and they enjoy the full and active support and participation of both FHN and TriRivers Health Partners in this endeavor. We support their application for HIE funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and ask for your full and active consideration of any application for funding the statewide HIE in Illinois.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

Tim Broos
Chief Information Officer
Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital
403 East First Street
Dixon, IL 61021
815-285-5512
tbroos@ksbhospital.com

ILLINOIS BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY ORGANIZATION

David E. Miller
PRESIDENT & CEO

September 9, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of the Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization, better known worldwide as iBIO, I am writing to express my strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois. For reasons stated below, I am convinced the Department of Health and Human Services will find in Illinois an ideal partner for this important work.

iBIO members—representing contributors of medical, agricultural and bio-industrial solutions globally—have a strong interest in a sound fiscal approach to state government and the general competitiveness of the US economy. This project, as proposed by the State of Illinois, is well-designed to make enormous contributions to both objectives.

HIE implementation in Illinois is vitally important in order to facilitate development nationwide health information exchange. Illinois enjoys many advantages which ensure the success of the effort:

- Illinois possesses one of the top healthcare delivery systems, broadly defined, in the United States.
- Our state is a leader in the development of IT applications.
- Illinois possesses top-tier IT and communications research capabilities such as those at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the Argonne National Labs.

65 East Wacker Place
Suite 1600
Chicago IL 60601

Phone 312-422-1111

Fax 312-422-1145

- No jurisdiction within the United States provides better locational assets than Illinois from which to showcase the success of the HIE project. Simply stated: there is no city in the world as easy to get to and from anywhere else in the world as Chicago. Learnings from this project can thus be easily shared with the rest of the nation.

For these reasons, our State is in a good position to join with your Department to:

- Improve healthcare quality and outcomes
- Reduce medical errors and duplicative services
- Improve patient safety and care coordination
- Control the overall cost of healthcare
- Create new jobs for all segments of our communities
- Generate new healthcare information technology and new technology companies

iBIO members possess substantial formal and informal relationships with leading participants in the HIE project. In addition, iBIO and its partner organizations concerned with good health care practices and economic development possess substantial informational and marketing tools. We intend to put these relationships and assets to work in the service of HIE should Illinois be selected for this undertaking.

In summary, I expect you will find no better partner than the State of Illinois with which to pursue the goals of this project. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

David Miller
President & CEO
iBIO / iBIO Institute

September 10, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of NOW Wireless, LLC we are writing to express our strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois. It is our belief that statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois is vitally important in order to facilitate state participation in nationwide health information exchange. This effort will also create economic development opportunities for Illinois, spur job growth, and realize transformational health benefits for Illinois' citizens.

These efforts will be of great value to the corporate and individual citizens of the state in terms of improving the healthcare system in Illinois. This proposal is a critical step in ensuring that we continue to improve healthcare quality and outcomes, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, improve patient safety and care coordination, and control the overall cost of healthcare.

Implementation of HIE will also drive innovation in the healthcare marketplace and be an important source of new jobs in the healthcare sector. This collaborative approach will generate market opportunities for healthcare information technology and, equally important, create jobs.

We recognize that this effort is essential in order to further our state's leadership position in Health Information Exchange, pursue new economic development and technology opportunities, and help speed the adoption of electronic medical records so that Illinois is compliant with the federal goal to make all health records electronic by 2014. We are committed to ongoing collaboration with the State of Illinois to ensure that statewide integration of HIE is achieved.

While we are a small regional ISP, we find the project vital to the healthcare of rural Illinois citizens where we operate exclusively. We will link with other providers and the State of Illinois to facilitate the delivery of data.

The statewide nature of this initiative and its collaborative approach, and commitment to broad-based stakeholder involvement constitute an excellent strategy for ensuring that public and private interests can efficiently partner to develop and implement the statewide Health Information Exchange, all while working to overcome obstacles to its implementation at a national level.

Sincerely,

Bruce W. Cooper
Director - Government Relations & Administration
NOW Wireless, LLC
(618) 494-5068
607 S. State Street
Jerseyville, IL 62052
bwc@noww.us

September 8, 2009

Upp Technology, Inc.
3075 Highland Parkway
Downers Grove, IL 60515

+1 800.777.6092 Free
+1 630.493.7800 Local
+1 630.353.6915 Fax

info@upp.com
www.upp.com

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of Upp Technology, Inc. are writing to express our strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois. It is our belief that statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois is vitally important in order to facilitate state participation in nationwide health information exchange. This effort will also create economic development opportunities for Illinois, spur job growth, and realize transformational health benefits for Illinois' citizens.

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Upp Technology, Inc is an IT Healthcare consulting and software development company with 150 employees based in Illinois. We are engaged with the States of Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Louisiana, Delaware, Maryland, Texas and Washington DC providing a solutions for today's proactive government and healthcare operations including Emergency Management, Resource Management, Patient Management and Asset Management. We are prepared to support the State's plan in implementing HIE.

The statewide nature of this initiative and its collaborative approach, and commitment to broad-based stakeholder involvement constitute an excellent strategy for ensuring that public and private interests can efficiently partner to develop and implement the statewide Health Information Exchange, all while working to overcome obstacles to its implementation at a national level.

Sincerely,

Scott F. Upp
CEO
Upp Technology, Inc
3075 Highland Parkway
Downers Grove, IL 60515
630-493-7845 (direct)
630-353-6917 (fax)
supp@upp.com

.

Upp Technology, Inc.
3075 Highland Parkway
Downers Grove, IL 60515

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+1 630.353.6915 Fax

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www.upp.com

iNAP
ISI iNAP LLC
16W235 83rd Street
Suite D
Burr Ridge, IL 60558

September 9, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of ISI iNAP Healthcare Exchange (HX) are writing to express our strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois. It is our belief that statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois is vitally important in order to facilitate state participation in nationwide health information exchange. This effort will also create economic development opportunities for Illinois, spur job growth, and realize transformational health benefits for Illinois' citizens.

These efforts will be of great value to the corporate and individual citizens of the state in terms of improving the healthcare system in Illinois. This proposal is a critical step in ensuring that we continue to improve healthcare quality and outcomes, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, improve patient safety and care coordination, and control the overall cost of healthcare.

Implementation of HIE will also drive innovation in the healthcare marketplace and be an important source of new jobs in the healthcare sector. This collaborative approach will generate market opportunities for healthcare information technology and, equally important, create jobs.

We recognize that this effort is essential in order to further our state's leadership position in Health Information Exchange, pursue new economic development and technology opportunities, and help speed the adoption of electronic medical records so that Illinois is compliant with the federal goal to make all health records electronic by 2014. We are committed to ongoing collaboration with the State of Illinois to ensure that statewide integration of HIE is achieved.

At iNAP, we have been working to implement a Metropolitan Area Network located in and around the Chicago Area to link hospitals and health care organizations to each other, to their suppliers and software vendors, and to their patients through a secure high-speed optical network that does not use

commercial internet. We are located at the DuPage National Technology Park, and expect to connect with the Illinois Rural HealthNet (an NIU granted program) shortly. Additionally, our existing connection to the MREN/StarLight NFP network at the Northwestern University further facilitates our ability to link the research and education hospitals to the rural and for profit hospitals in a seamless network fabric built on the latest technology and architecture. We expect to be leading the effort to network our healthcare organizations here in Illinois, and very soon after that, to the other state networks for Healthcare across our nation.

The statewide nature of this initiative and its collaborative approach, and commitment to broad-based stakeholder involvement constitute an excellent strategy for ensuring that public and private interests can efficiently partner to develop and implement the statewide Health Information Exchange, all while working to overcome obstacles to its implementation at a national level.

Sincerely,

Daniel G Howard
Managing Member
ISI iNAP LLC
16W235 83rd Street
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
630-887-2910 (direct)
630-824-0199 (fax)
dhoward@ngnap.com

Cc: Russell Massaro, MD.

September 4, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of the Illinois Technology Development Alliance, I am writing to express strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois. It is my belief that statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois is vitally important in order to facilitate state participation in nationwide health information exchange. This effort will also create economic development opportunities for Illinois, spur job growth, and realize transformational health benefits for Illinois' citizens.

These efforts will be of great value to the corporate and individual citizens of the state in terms of improving the healthcare system in Illinois. This proposal is a critical step in ensuring that we continue to improve healthcare quality and outcomes, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, improve patient safety and care coordination, and control the overall cost of healthcare.

Implementation of HIE will also drive innovation in the healthcare marketplace and be an important source of new jobs in the healthcare sector. This collaborative approach will generate market opportunities for healthcare information technology and, equally important, create jobs.

I recognize that this effort is essential in order to further our state's leadership position in Health Information Exchange, pursue new economic development and technology opportunities, and help speed the adoption of electronic medical records so that Illinois is compliant with the federal goal to make all health records electronic by 2014. We are committed to ongoing collaboration with the State of Illinois to ensure that statewide integration of HIE is achieved.

Advanced efficiencies resulting from these programs will improve both the costs for my organization, as well as costs for my family.

The statewide nature of this initiative and its collaborative approach, and commitment to broad-based stakeholder involvement constitute an excellent strategy for ensuring that public and private interests can efficiently partner to develop and implement the statewide Health Information Exchange, all while working to overcome obstacles to its implementation at a national level.

Sincerely,

Keith Brumbaugh

Director of Commercialization
ITDA
Suite 600
549 W. Randolph
Chicago, IL 60661
630-589-4349

VASCO THE AUTHENTICATION COMPANY

September 4, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of VASCO Data Security International, Inc (Nasdaq: VDSI), we are writing to express our strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois. It is our belief that statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois is vitally important in order to facilitate state participation in nationwide health information exchange. This effort will also create economic development opportunities for Illinois, spur job growth, and realize transformational health benefits for Illinois' citizens.

These efforts will be of great value to the corporate and individual citizens of the state in terms of improving the healthcare system in Illinois. This proposal is a critical step in ensuring that we continue to improve healthcare quality and outcomes, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, improve patient safety and care coordination, and control the overall cost of healthcare.

Implementation of HIE will also drive innovation in the healthcare marketplace and be an important source of new jobs in the healthcare sector. This collaborative approach will generate market opportunities for healthcare information technology and, equally important, create jobs.

We recognize that this effort is essential in order to further our state's leadership position in Health Information Exchange, pursue new economic development and technology opportunities, and help speed the adoption of electronic medical records so that Illinois is compliant with the federal goal to make all health records electronic by 2014. We are committed to ongoing collaboration with the State of Illinois to ensure that statewide integration of HIE is achieved.

VASCO is a leading supplier of strong authentication and e-signature solutions and services specializing in Internet Security applications and transactions. VASCO has positioned itself as global software company for Internet Security serving a customer base of approximately 9,000 companies in more than 100 countries, including almost 1,300 international financial institutions. VASCO's prime markets are the financial sector, enterprise security, e-commerce and e-government.

Our company employs over 300 individuals world-wide and we are head-quartered in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. We believe that HIE offers us new opportunities to grow our business and create new jobs within Illinois and the United States.

1901 SOUTH MEYERS ROAD, SUITE 210
OAKBROOK TERRACE, IL 60181
phone: 630.932.8844 - fax: 630.932.8852
email: info@vasco.com • www.vasco.com

The statewide nature of this initiative and its collaborative approach, and commitment to broad-based stakeholder involvement constitute an excellent strategy for ensuring that public and private interests can efficiently partner to develop and implement the statewide Health Information Exchange, all while working to overcome obstacles to its implementation at a national level.

Sincerely,

T. Kendall Hunt

T. Kendall Hunt

Chairman & CEO
VASCO Data Security International, Inc.
1901 South Meyers Road, Suite 210
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181
Direct: 630-495-2182
Mobile: 630-640-9127
Email: tkh@vasco.com

VIA Strategy Group, LLC

September 11, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201RE: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of the Via Strategy Group, LLC and a number of our clients, I am writing to express our strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois. It is our belief that statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois is vitally important in order to facilitate state participation in nationwide health information exchange. This effort will also create economic development opportunities for Illinois, spur job growth, and realize transformational health benefits for Illinois' citizens.

These efforts will be of great value to the corporate and individual citizens of the state in terms of improving the healthcare system in Illinois. This proposal is a critical step in ensuring that we continue to improve healthcare quality and outcomes, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, improve patient safety and care coordination, and control the overall cost of healthcare.

Implementation of HIE will also drive innovation in the healthcare marketplace and be an important source of new jobs in the healthcare sector. This collaborative approach will generate market opportunities for healthcare information technology and, equally important, create jobs.

We recognize that this effort is essential in order to further our state's leadership position in Health Information Exchange, pursue new economic development and technology opportunities, and help speed the adoption of electronic medical records so that Illinois is compliant with the federal goal to make all health records electronic by 2014. We are committed to ongoing collaboration with the State of Illinois to ensure that statewide integration of HIE is achieved.

Via Strategy Group is actively involved with a half dozen local small technology companies all of whom are developing aspects of solutions that comprise components of the Electronic Healthcare Records systems proposed or solutions which require robust Electronic Healthcare Records systems to be in place.

The statewide nature of this initiative and its collaborative approach, and commitment to broad-based stakeholder involvement constitute an excellent strategy for ensuring that public and private interests can efficiently partner to develop and implement the statewide Health Information Exchange, all while working to overcome obstacles to its implementation at a national level.

Sincerely,

James B. Treleaven, PhD
President and CEO
Via Strategy Group, LLC
200 S. Wacker Dr., 15th Fl
Chicago, IL 60606
(708) 306-1825

Dr. Jerry J. Field
Executive Vice president- Education and Training
J.B. Burling Group, Ltd.
540 West Aldine Chicago, IL 60657-3755
E-mail: drjay2@juno.com
Fax 773 327 5362 cell 312 399 6776 773 327 5362
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September 4, 2009

David Blumenthal MD, MPP
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Illinois Health Information Exchange Proposal

Dear Dr. Blumenthal:

On behalf of the J.B. Burling Group, Ltd. are writing to express our strong support for the State of Illinois' Health Information Exchange (HIE) proposal to the United States Department of Health and Human Services to establish statewide Electronic Healthcare Records in Illinois. It is our belief that statewide coordination of HIE implementation in Illinois is vitally important in order to facilitate state participation in nationwide health information exchange. This effort will also create economic development opportunities for Illinois, spur job growth, and realize transformational health benefits for Illinois' citizens.

These efforts will be of great value to the corporate and individual citizens of the state in terms of improving the healthcare system in Illinois. This proposal is a critical step in ensuring that we continue to improve healthcare quality and outcomes, reduce medical errors and duplicative services, improve patient safety and care coordination, and control the overall cost of healthcare.

Implementation of HIE will also drive innovation in the healthcare marketplace and be an important source of new jobs in the healthcare sector. This collaborative approach will generate market opportunities for healthcare information technology and, equally important, create jobs.

We recognize that this effort is essential in order to further our state's leadership position in Health Information Exchange, pursue new economic development and technology opportunities, and help speed the adoption of electronic medical records so that Illinois is compliant with the federal goal to make all health records electronic by 2014. We are committed to ongoing collaboration with the State of Illinois to ensure that statewide integration of HIE is achieved.

I personally have been involve with health care issues as a former member of the City of Chicago, Board of health

as a health Information officer. The firm has represented several Chicago hospitals and health care providers for marketing and program development. Currently I am on several committees to support returning veterans and am engaged in curriculum development training and education for a health care ladder, which is based on education and job placement.

In addition I serve on the Illinois Governor's Board Band committee, the State Illinois Veterans Committee and have written a two years curriculum for Information Technology on the community college level.

The statewide nature of this initiative and its collaborative approach, and commitment to broad-based stakeholder involvement constitute an excellent strategy for ensuring that public and private interests can efficiently partner to develop and implement the statewide Health Information Exchange, all while working to overcome obstacles to its implementation at a national level.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jerry J. Field, M.B.A. Ed.D.
Executive Vice President
J.B. Burling Group, Ltd

Name	Dr. Jerry J. Field
Title	Executive Vice President
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