

The Strategic Value of Using Grant Funds for EHR/HIE Training and Certification for all Stakeholders in a Community

By:

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Western Nebraska Health Information Exchange (WNHIE)

1. Participants

- All hospitals in the region
 - 1 Regional Medical Center
 - 8 Critical Access Hospitals
 - 1 Federal Qualified Health Center
- Public health agency
- Behavioral health agency
- About 50% of all the physicians and mid-levels in the region that are employed by the hospitals

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2. Goals

- Share clinical and patient demographic information among all providers participating, including those that do not have electronic health records
- Support public health, including reporting and coordinated treatment/monitoring between the provider community and public health; public health management
- Behavioral Health coordination
- Support specialists who travel throughout the region to conduct part-time clinics in the hospitals

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3. Funding Sources

- AHRQ
- HRSA
- CDC
- Nebraska Information Technology Commission
- FCC high speed broadband project revenues over those required for the FCC match
- User fees

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4. The Role of Training

- Training partially funded by HRSA and AHRQ grant funds
- Training for all participants included project management, workflow process analysis, introduction to the use of PCs
- HIT and EHR (HIE training)
 - Training of key stakeholder decision makers on health IT system planning, selection, and implementation; and the advanced use of electronic health records
 - Three training programs within the region reached approximately 90 individuals
 - Early training sessions raised awareness on key planning issues and the importance of physician participation
 - Training helped to set organizational goals, focus direction for system selection, organize the process and create the collective “we”

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5. Current Status

- Planning completed
- RFP vendor selection process completed
- Currently in contract negotiation phase with selected vendor
 - HIE
 - Central Data Repository
 - Fully integrated EHR optional for physician practices, public health and behavioral health

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