



Mihealthlink.org
Southwest Michigan Health Information Exchange

Southwest Michigan Health Information Exchange Newsletter

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Get wired April 29 -May1

Plan to attend. The Michigan Health Information Network (MiHIN) Resource Center will be holding its annual Wiring Michigan for Health Information Exchange at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Kalamazoo April 29 - May 1.

This three-day conference features several educational sessions, exhibits and demonstrations from leading technology vendors, and Networking opportunities with key HIE leaders. It is

Welcome to the latest issue of the Southwest Michigan Health Information Exchange Newsletter. We'll keep you informed on a monthly basis on information and the progress of the development of a secure online infrastructure designed to connect the region's healthcare providers. If you have any questions, comments or story suggestions, please share them with our editor, Bonnie Caprara, at bcaprara@changescapeinc.com.

Vermont HIE president to assist Southwest Michigan planning effort

Gregory Farnum is joining the Southwest Michigan Health Information Exchange planning leadership team and will be charged in assisting the development of the regional HIE technical infrastructure.

Farnum is the founder and president of Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc. (VITL), who will be stepping down to work as a consultant to regional state and regional HIEs.

At VITL, Farnum worked with vendors and payors to assemble a medication history service that is recognized as one of the most comprehensive in the U.S. and directed the launch of a results messaging service that has delivered thousands of lab results from hospitals around the state to physician electronic health records systems since the service began last September.

Under Farnum's leadership, VITL developed one of the nation's first

especially important that medical professionals, information technologists, health plan administrators, health care system representatives, government officials and regional leaders attend in order to obtain the knowledge, tools and resources to create a robust and self-sustaining health information exchange for our seven-county region. For more information on the conference, visit www.mihin.org or contact Amy Smith at amy.smith@hc.msu.edu or 517-432-8366.

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Be sure to visit www.mihealthelink.org to keep current on the latest developments on the development plans for the Southwest Michigan Health Information Exchange.

HIEs that is fully compliant with standards adopted by the Health Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP) and Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) profiles. The Vermont Health Information Technology Plan also received recognition from the Office of the National Coordinator as one of the best in the country. VITL was also successful in working with primary care physician practices across Vermont to help them implement Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology-certified electronic health records systems.

"We are fortunate to have Greg on our planning team," said Mindy Richards, president and CEO of ChangeScape Inc., which is coordinating the Southwest Michigan Health Information Exchange planning project. "His experience and track record will help us develop an equally successful HIE model that will connect healthcare providers throughout Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties, and ultimately the State of Michigan."

Southwest Michigan HIE Town Hall brings collaborators together

IT, business and clinical leaders met at the Southwest Michigan Health Information Town Hall on March 18 to lend their talents to the Southwest Michigan Health Information Exchange's development initiative. Technical, clinical, legal, financial and governance work groups met to discuss technological and business infrastructure plans for a regional HIE scheduled for completion by September.



"We're excited to have so many people committed to and involved in creating an HIE for Southwest Michigan," said Mindy Richards, president and CEO of ChangeScape, a Birmingham health care management strategy firm that is coordinating the Southwest Michigan HIE planning effort.

"We've already started some of the work by reviewing the technology possibilities that may suit the unique needs of the region and the state has provided us with many of the legal and privacy guidelines we need to consider in this process. We still have a lot of work to accomplish but we're driven. The need for an HIE is past due. Healthcare is the last paper-based industry."

The work groups still welcome interested volunteer participants and queries and comments from the public at large. Inquiries can be addressed [to info@changescapeinc.com](mailto:info@changescapeinc.com).

State, Southwest Michigan face changing and exciting HIE possibilities

Technology is developing at a rapid pace and so are the possibilities for financing, organizing and meeting the needs of developing a Health Information Exchange (HIE) for Southwest Michigan. The Michigan Department of Community Health has been guiding the facilitation of nine regional HIEs throughout the state over the past two years.



Seven of the nine Michigan regions have or will have completed their development initiatives, leaving the Southwest region as one of two remaining regional HIE's scheduled for completion.

The current White House administration efforts to develop health information exchange has provided new insight for the MDCH in determining the most effective approach for implementing a comprehensive HIE that can communicate between regions throughout the state and the nation.

"Nothing's been concluded, but we will (likely) have a state centralized system with regional characteristics," said John Hazewinkel, project manager of the [Michigan Health Information Network \(MiHIN\) Resource Center](#), at the Southwest Michigan Health Information Exchange Town Hall on March 18. "Back in 2006 when we started this process with the MDCH and the Conduit to Care report, we didn't have the technology ... and with the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act), there are some possibilities that might support community exchanges in a creative way."

One of the possibilities Hazewinkel presented was a shared state/regional system. The state could maintain such functions a master patient index, record locator, messaging gateway and privacy and security functions. The regions could handle call center functions, enrollment, a messaging gateway, opt-out management, disaster recovery and added services that would meet unique needs of each region. Both the state and the regions could share some or all the responsibilities of governance, overseeing vendor services, pursuing business opportunities, developing policy, and adhering to mutually agreed standards.

Mindy Richards, president and CEO of ChangeScope, is committed to seeing the region complete the initiative and submitting business and technical plans to the MDCH by its deadline in September.

"We have the luxury of drawing from lessons learned and are eager to work with our regional stakeholders and the state in developing an HIE that is technologically sound, meets the needs of providers and the community, and is financially and organizationally sustainable," Richards said.

Technology possibilities addressed at Southwest Michigan HIE Townhall

Although few regions and states throughout the nation have planned or implemented health information exchanges (HIEs), the possible technological delivery systems are exponentially varied.

Technology and clinical leaders from the state and Southwest Michigan met on Jan. 8 to review presentations by several leading health care technology providers that could manage the means to share and transmit healthcare data within the seven-county region. The results of a 38-point survey completed by the participants were revealed at the Southwest Michigan Health Information Exchange Town Hall on March 18.

The Jan. 8 conference attendees rated each provider based on each companies' visions, backgrounds and experiences with HIEs, and their capabilities.

"This by no means indicates that we've selected a product we'd like to see in place for the Southwest Michigan HIE, but we believe three of the companies should come back and be part of the process," said Larry Hamilton, of ChangeScape, a Birmingham healthcare management strategy firm and co-chair of the Southwest Michigan HIE Technology Work Group.

The results will be assessed and further vetted by the Southwest Michigan HIE technological and clinical work groups. The work groups, comprised of technology, clinical, business and academic leaders in the region, welcome queries and input from interested stakeholders. Queries can be directed [to info@changescapeinc.com](mailto:info@changescapeinc.com).

Thank you for reading our newsletter.

Please send comments or suggestions for articles to bcaprara@changescapeinc.com

Sincerely,

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