



**HIT Policy Committee
Certification/Adoption Workgroup
Workforce Subgroup
Transcript
June 20, 2014**

Presentation

Operator

All lines are bridged with the public.

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Thank you. Good afternoon everyone, this is Michelle Consolazio with the Office of the National Coordinator. This is a meeting of the Health IT Policy Committee's Certification and Adoption Workgroup, and it's a subgroup, which is the Workforce Subgroup. This is a public call and there will be time for public comment at the end of the call. As a reminder, this meeting is being transcribed and recorded so please state your name before speaking. I'll now take roll. Larry Wolf?

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

Here.

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Hi, Larry. Norma Morganti?

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Here.

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Hi, Norma. Bill Hersh? Don Gull? Elizabeth Royal? Jennifer Pirtle?

Jennifer Pirtle – Workforce Analyst, Employment Training Administration – US Department of Labor

Here.

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Hi, Jennifer. JoAnn Klinedinst?

JoAnn W. Klinedinst CPHIMS, DES, PMP, FHIMSS – Vice President, Professional Development – Health Information Management and Systems Society

Here.

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Hi, JoAnn. Joe Heyman? Michelle Dougherty?

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

Here.

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Hi, Michelle. Nancy Brooks? Patty Dombrowski?

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center - Bellevue College

Hi, everyone.

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Roger Holloway?

Roger Holloway, RN, MHA – Executive Director, Rural Health Resource Services – Northern Illinois University

Here.

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Hi, Roger. Samantha Burch? Steve Waldren? Susan Fenton? And Chitra Mohla from ONC?

Chitra Mohla, MS – Director, Workforce Programs Office of Provider Adoption Support (OPAS) – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Here.

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Hi, Chitra. And is there anyone else from ONC on the line? Okay, with that I'll turn it back to you Larry and Norma.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

I guess we didn't coordinate this, so I'll do the welcome and Norma can – it's closer to the actual stuff we're reporting on today. So great to have everybody back together, it's been a few weeks since we talked about this as a bigger sub-workgroup. And I'm looking forward to where we are with the Standard Occupational Codes, it's been a great discussion up to now and we're about to I believe, get ready to hand it over to the bigger workgroup we're part of and then to the Policy Committee for recommendations. And we also have a review of some of the things we've done in the past as a wrap-up on our activities. So Norma, do you want to add something?

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Yeah, just that we will be having Michelle Dougherty present on the work that we have been doing around the summary report for the Standard Occupation Code, lots of stakeholders have been involved in that and a lot of writing. So, that's the only thing that I'll add, Larry, before I guess we turn it over to Michelle. Michelle, are you ready?

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

I am.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Wonderful.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

And I think we're going to display the – a draft or a version that I sent around by email to everyone, and I just wanted to highlight a few points. So on our off weeks of this workgroup call, a handful of us have come together to go over the structure of our report on our recommendation for health informatics SOC. And in addition, there has been a wider group that has been interested and last Friday that invitation to participate in a call to discuss the proposal included that broader group. I'm trying to think if it was since we've had a workgroup meeting, the Federal Register Notice has been released and the due date for proposals for revisions to the SOC is July 21, 2014. So the opportunity obviously is right now.

So we're drafting a report that in some respects is pulling double duty. So from this workgroup, we had identified the lack of a health informatics classification and we were drafting our recommendation. We began writing this report in a way to summarize our findings and the data we'd collected and the recommendations that we had pulled together over the past year, so that it could be used by other groups to develop a proposal. So now this same report will also include information that can be pulled out by different stakeholder groups to use in a proposal, whether it's individually or hopefully as a collaboration of stakeholders coming together and I think that's what we're seeing emerge.

So I wanted to point out a few things that came up at our last call with the broader group in place. So one of the first things that we discussed was where to place the – or make a recommendation for placement of a new classification for health informatics. And hands down with the – it's been consistent with our group as well as with the expanded group, they feel first and foremost that health informatics workers are healthcare workers. They're education and background comes in out of schools of health and various programs and so they felt like its designation should be in the healthcare classification system.

So we looked at two different areas and on the screen, if you want to scroll down a little bit, I know it's at least really small on my side – there we go. The little text that you may see, basically gives the initial recommendation from this group, which is that potentially we should be looking at a new broad category under the healthcare classification and it's in the basically the other healthcare practitioners and technical occupations area. And this group also looked at the existing classification that we've talked about, which was the medical record health information technician class, but felt like that grouping, that minor group reflected more technician level workers, not the practitioner, four-year plus type educated professionals that we see in these healthcare informatics type roles. So for that reason we – this initial recommendation coming forward is sitting in that spot. And that's consistent to the options we had identified as a group early on in the year, of where we might place it. But at some point we have to make a decision, and that's consistent to the options we had identified as a group early on in the year, of where we might place it. But at some point, we have to make a decision and so this is our first pass.

Prior to our call starting, I asked Jen for any recommendation on who we might get advice from, in terms of how the classification system works and does it structurally fit, would there be any red flags to reviewers. I basically said I'd hate to not even be able to get out of the starting blocks because of some disagreement with our recommended placement. So Jen was going to see if there was anyone that we could connect with at BLS for that. So, before going into the definition part, I wanted – if you scroll up a little bit, I did want to point out that the group also talked about who may want to be participating collaborators or go in on a proposal. And they came up with a broader group, I think, than we had even discussed. So, beyond associations, but also looking at certifying boards and accreditors of programs, healthcare providers, federal agencies in which, for example like the VA or the DoD that are also healthcare worker – have healthcare delivery systems, university and colleges and others. And so they really came up with a broader group, as well as health departments.

So we had an active participation from the Minnesota Department of Health and their definition – in health care informatics or health informatics, as well as a definition put forward by the VA. And so I think we're just seeing what we had been sensing as a group that – and hearing as well from stakeholders like the VA, that this is a group of occupations or workers that are not well represented in the classification system and that they have definitions for them.

So the next thing I wanted to point out, and just get your feedback on, is the definition. And that is on the second page. So going to scroll down, yup, and Bill Hersh had provided a nice expanded set of definitions and he put a stake in the ground in terms of what our definition could be. And then those on the call last Friday with a broader group, helped to expand it. And so the definition that we're moving forward on – or that we'll have for broader vetting is that health informatics is a healthcare occupation in which workers apply the science of effective use of data, information and knowledge to support the safe and effective delivery of healthcare and improve health and wellness. Workers apply knowledge, skills and tools enabling information to be collected, managed, used and shared safely to support the delivery of healthcare and promote health.

So that's kind of a combination of a few different angles or aspects. And so we'll be vetting that more fully and I'd like to entertain even comments about that definition from this group as well, if that seems to be capturing the aspect of the health informatics occupation. I don't know if you can – and, for those of you who got the email and are trying to review it, my – the re – it is on page 2 of the document that I sent to everybody.

And then I think finally, given the timeline, I just want to wrap up with what our next steps are. I think we're really to the point where we need a small steering group to be meeting on a pretty regular basis and doing the refinement of the text and drafting, and doing some editing. And then bring it to the larger group that includes this expanded network for feedback and input. I think it was a little larger group last week and so it's difficult to get that group to be the writing group as well. So I think moving forward, in order to meet the deadline of July 21, we're going to have to look at a real small group that's drafting and then that larger feedback loop. So I think those are our next steps. And, we meet again, I'm just going to wrap up, we meet again as, and this would be with the broader group, next Friday, on June 27 at this same meeting time. So at that point, I'll open it up for questions or comments.

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center - Bellevue College

Hi, Michelle, it's Patricia Dombrowski.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

Yes.

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center - Bellevue College

Hi. I'm Johnny-come-lately to this effort and I apologize for that, but I'm very interested in a number of portions of the text. My primary attention has gone to page 4, the definitions of health informatics. I'm wondering – the statement that “the academic units that house health informatics programs are almost uniformly in health sciences – health science colleges and universities.” How is that derived?

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

It was in this would be the type of thing that'll be good to highlight and say, we have questions; we don't think that's completely accurate. So that was comments and some conclusions drawn on last Friday's call, again, a consensus, yeah, that seems about right. And so it would have reflected, and I think it's a great opportunity to say, this is definitely a working draft, this by no means is final text, and I'm glad you're highlighting text. You're like, oh, this isn't quite a fit for certain occupations or certain detailed occupations that might be under this umbrella, and perhaps that statement needs to be either modified or struck.

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center - Bellevue College

And how would you like us to submit comment? I know we're going to bat things around today a little bit, like we are now, but would you like things sent to you or –

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

Yeah, that would be great, I'm happy to –

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center - Bellevue College

Okay.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

– get that so either track changes would be great –

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center - Bellevue College

Yup.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

– if that's an easy way to do it.

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center - Bellevue College

Sure.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

And I could have sworn we actually gave you a writing assignment, so.

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center - Bellevue College

That you gave me one.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

No, I'm teasing, that we were hoping –

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center - Bellevue College

Oh, don't –

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

– you would be part of the –

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center - Bellevue College

– don't make my heartbeat faster.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

– group. No, but we were hoping you would be part of the group in developing this, so I look forward to your input.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Michelle –

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center - Bellevue College

Thank you.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

– this is Norma and I guess I’m trying to connect a previous conversation that we did have with Patricia’s question on how we somewhat derived that. So I’m feeling as though some of our conversation was around how the SOC would perceive this as being different than existing classifications.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

Yeah.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

So one of the things we wanted to make sure is that as we looked at what we were proposing for this unique new code to be supported, was that they would not look at it and say, well that belongs under computer science, or something that was already existing with the skill set. So while I don’t disagree, I think this is the challenge that we’ve had from the very beginning and even naming it informatics and then deriving what in totality was underneath there –

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center - Bellevue College

Norma, I agree and I think that the case is well made for differentiation with this kind of statement. I’m just looking a little bit farther down the line and wondering, not that I know, but wondering what fallout there would be from that kind of identification.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

Yup, right, if it’s not definitive or we may start to see programs not be –

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center - Bellevue College

Yes.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

– in health co – so I think it’s a fantastic point.

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center - Bellevue College

Yup, okay. Thanks.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Yeah.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

Any other questions or comments?

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

So Michelle, some of the – this is Norma again, some of the work that I see that needs to happen, and I appreciate your thought around really focusing on writing is that then taking all these pieces and aligning them somewhat with comments for folks who may not be part of that editing process. So they can understand why things may have gotten updated or maybe re-edited a certain way, that would be an important process of that editing, I think, is just to then include them in on – with comments that we could walk through –

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation
Yes.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

– on that other call.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation
I think that’s a good recommendation.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Yeah. So I guess the – my asks for the group would be to get those comments, based upon what you sent out, to you pretty rapidly so they could be included in that editing process.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

And we should be submitting, I think we’re going to need – we will need a new draft going out by Wednesday or Thursday. So one of the “to do’s” that I have is to go back to the kind of – the small working group to see if we can meet again earlier in the week and respond to some edits and clean up some areas, so that we have some new information to present and/or validate with the larger working group on the Friday call.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Sounds like a plan. Are there any other comments or questions for Michelle or about the process itself? Well, I’ll take that as no and so, thanks Michelle for walking through that and for everyone’s work and input on that process. And so Larry, I think that we’re probably ready to pivot to the status of recommendations and what those – I guess what will be presented back to the Policy Committee.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

I’m sorry; I was out of range for a second.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

No worries. Did you get my –

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

I got your, bring this to the Policy Committee, right, I didn’t catch the couple of sentences leading up to it.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Okay, no, I just – we wrapped that up and so I think we’re in good status to start with the review of the recommendations that we would walk back through the committee.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

(Indiscernible)

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Would you like me to run through them or – ?

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

Yeah, go ahead.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Okay, fabulous.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

That would be great, yes.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Great, I just wanted to make sure I wasn't moving too fast here. So, can we get that slide deck up then, please? Yeah, and then I think we have – yup, the review of the status of recommendations, and I think we have those slides, correct – yup, there they are. So, the two introductory bullets is that obviously there were a lot of recommendations, a lot of work that the committee has done since May of 2013 and that we just wanted to make sure in our overall wrap-up of work, that we almost gave the status of what those recommendations were, what we had done to advance them. And then any final new recommendations moving forward. So why don't we move to the next slide. And I know we sent these out to everyone for comment, so certainly this is an opportunity for the working group to highlight anything additional that should be presented or anything that's missing, certainly we would want to have your insight and input, as of now.

But this slide specifically around the programs being summarized and the results of those programs publicized, we certainly know that NORC did report back to us, and that report is completed and posted on the workforce development portal as well as some other summaries that were done by the ONC. So the ONC has been tweeting and chatting and doing webinars and a lot of other things to update the public on NORC and the results of the overall workforce development process and funding that came through. Anything that anyone would want to comment or add to this slide? Okay, then we'll move on to the next slide.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

I'm sorry, its Larry, I was on mute. So I was paying attention, but not to my mute status.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Okay, go ahead, Larry.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

Okay, so you commented that ONC has done some things to get the word out beyond putting this on the website and I wonder if we could get a couple of examples –

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Absolutely.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

– to the slide.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Good point. We'll add that, I'll make some notes, along with Chitra, I'm sure we'll make some notes.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

Okay, that would be great.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

I think that would be very helpful. Okay. Is that it Larry on that first slide?

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

That was it. Thank you.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Okay. Fabulous. So then also we recognize that all these workforce programs identified many core competencies for health IT, health informatics and that we recommended that we summarize those and disseminate those. And as you can see, the sub-bullets in italics really are around all of the workforce development competencies, robust curriculum that was developed and shared via the ONC Workforce Development Program. So, including the National Curriculum that was developed by the universities, being ported over to the AMIA curriculum site. The wonderful work that Bellevue College did in developing informatics courses and prep courses being supported via the National Training Educational Resource portal, the NTER site.

And I think we have the AMIA piece twice there, so we'll have to pull one of those out. And then the patient-centered care health IT resources being available through the ONC on their website and that certainly the ONC participated or hosted in multiple webinars and presentations and then pushed resources via newsletters and a great job via their social media approach. Is there anything, though, that we're missing that anyone would like to comment on or include on this slide? Oh actually, Chitra I was just thinking of something. I think I missed maybe the resources that were posted to YouTube.

Chitra Mohla, MS – Director, Workforce Programs Office of Provider Adoption Support (OPAS) – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Oh, yes.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Yeah, so we'll have to include that one. I believe – which university-based program was that?

Chitra Mohla, MS – Director, Workforce Programs Office of Provider Adoption Support (OPAS) – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

That was Alabama and Columbia.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Yeah, we would definitely want to point to those also.

Chitra Mohla, MS – Director, Workforce Programs Office of Provider Adoption Support (OPAS) – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Okay.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Any other comments? Okay, actually Chitra, I'm wondering if we should not also perhaps include a link to the work that was done for the Health IT Apprenticeship with Bellevue and Cuyahoga and the ONC. I mean that did result in something that identified core competencies/curriculum.

Chitra Mohla, MS – Director, Workforce Programs Office of Provider Adoption Support (OPAS) – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Yeah, that's a good point.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Yeah, we should add that one in, too.

Chitra Mohla, MS – Director, Workforce Programs Office of Provider Adoption Support (OPAS) – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Okay.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Okay. Next slide then, please. And thi – as you notice, the first two slides, they had more of the green coding saying we think that we were pretty effective in surveying and identifying what had been done to support that recommendation. I think this slide is yellow because we feel as though that there may be additional pieces that we want to identify and report back on, that we weren't quite successful in wrapping up all of the work. And truly, I would love to hear from everyone on the call today on some items that we're missing. So, really just the healthcare of the future, we heard from many, many stakeholders to help us think through and identify the soft and hard skills, technical skills that would be supportive of this future approach to team-based care, population health and patient engagement, with health IT infrastructure. And really thought we were comprehensive at least identifying the groups that had supported our information gathering, but I'm wondering what else we really do need to include on this slide to identify there's much more work to be done here, perhaps. So, I'd like to open that up for conversation.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

This is Michelle Dougherty. The – two things came to mind when I looked at this slide and related back to some of the updates that we heard, as well as work that's happening on the EU/US workforce workgroup in which they've been addressing competencies and mapping those competencies to different job roles. And so specifically the direct care worker, and that's an area where I feel like the past recommendations and programs have focused on the health IT, informatics, IM type worker and some of that workforce development. But one of the areas that we potentially need to move forward is mapping the type of competencies, whether it's around the new healthcare of the future and the delivery models and team-based care, but as well, and the integration of technology into workflow and work processes of direct care workers. And how do the requirements of academic programs include that competency work, and potentially leverage, if it's possible, the work of the EU/US workforce workgroup.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Thanks Michelle, I think that's a really important connection to make and I know I've made some notes here, so we'll definitely update these slides and send this one back out.

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center - Bellevue College

Norma, this is Patricia again, hi.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Hi.

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center – Bellevue College

I would really ask, excuse me, the workgroup to consider whether or not we'd like to recommend support for, I don't know what to call it exactly, not just a repository, but more like a dynamic center for a repository and curation of educational resources for workforce development. So as an example, the ONC has invested a huge amount of money into the curricula, which is now available to everyone, but rapidly obsolescing. Nonetheless, it's extremely valuable to educators going forward and needs to be curated, enlivened and maintained.

There are a lot of other resources that are being developed right now, for instance through the Department of Labor, very large grants, many of which had to do with health IT. That curricula and some emanating from the National Science Foundation as well, all could be captured, sort of leavened to a uniform high standard, made available in an understandable way to both individuals and certainly to educators. But it's going to take an effort to do that, it's going to take concerted support. And I think rather than letting these federal assets that were developed with federal investment, go by the way and hope that something else comes down the pike that focus on it could yield big results for educators and individuals that wish to prepare themselves.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Thank you, Patricia and I concur 100%. I think that is such an incredible opportunity for us to communicate back. And for this slide, would you also – and I think I heard you say this, so that we would also then align those resources with some of these competencies that we're aware of or that could be developed in addition. To make it, like you said, user-friendly for individuals and meaningful for individuals and educators and who wanted to learn more about –

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center – Bellevue College

And accessible –

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

– and accessible.

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center – Bellevue College

Yeah, really, really accessible because right now these resources exist in a way that's kind of difficult to navigate for someone starting out.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Agreed. That's tremendous.

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center – Bellevue College

Thank you.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

I will made sure that we get your eyes on the language, because I wish we could have just captured everything you said and synthesized that, but we'll do our best and then get that back out.

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center – Bellevue College

And Norma, I'll send you my thoughts.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Thank you very much, that would be very helpful.

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center – Bellevue College

Thank you.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Didn't want to ask you, because we know you're busy doing a lot of things. But I would appreciate that.

Patricia Dombrowski, MA – Director of the Life Science Informatics Center – Bellevue College

You bet.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

All right.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

This is Larry, I also heard in there a concern about keeping the materials current.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Um hmm.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

So that should be part – I think that should be part of our recommendation.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Yeah.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

Because we have something for new workforce programs but I think the curriculum piece also needs continuing funding.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Yeah. So Larry, is your – as you're saying, so there's lots of value in what's already been developed so perhaps even part of that process and taking those, updating them, refreshing them and placing them in, right.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

Right.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Good, gotcha.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

Yes, as we pointed out earlier, they were built in the Meaningful Use 1 era –

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Um hmm.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

– and we continue to progress, which is the good news.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Yeah. Great.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

This is Mi – oh, I’m sorry.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

No, go ahead, Michelle.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

I was looking at this and also back at past slides and I wasn’t sure if it was a fit there but, it seems like the growth and importance of the apprenticeship program is an area that we should note here. And how we expand or develop those and given our focus, perhaps the health IT related workforce roles across our larger umbrella so that it’s clear what some of these apprenticeship roles may be and how can we support that.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Um hmm, that’s really good. Yeah.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

And my second recommendation, and just because I’m not – I think it’s here but – would be something that we, I think, continue to struggle with as – here in the US, and we’ve talked about it in terms of big buckets on the health IT workforce and it’s kind of our larger categories. But we don’t in the US have a health IT career framework, like what NHS has in UK, in which people can clearly see the depth and breadth of opportunity in this field, and different expertise, as well as different levels from entry up to executive and high-functioning – or high level professional. So, I still see that as a gap here in the US that other countries are beginning to fill, where they’re more National Health IT agenda perhaps is more coordinated at the government level.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Yeah and Michelle, its Norma. As you had spoken before, and I think what Patricia had just referred to is almost overlaying that career pathway and framework to then the ability to mine this curated resource-rich, educational database –

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

Right, right.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

– for actual then aligned materials that could help them understand what that looks like. And I’ve seen some of that over in the UK, they’ve done a good job, so – in almost connecting those two. So, we’ll have to almost merge those two thoughts, a few thoughts. I think that would be valuable.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

I think you're right. And what's interesting when you bring in the EU/US work is what they've been trying to do is connect what are roles that you might see in the EU, what are similar roles in the US. So in a way they're reconciling that and may make it an easy adaptation of some of the resources that are currently being developed. But it seems to be a missing piece to really understand the breadth of opportunity in the different job families and entry points or how you might move up in your steps and lattices across your career.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Um hmm. Any other thoughts? Okay, well then, we'll definitely update this slide and get it back out to everybody. So let's move to the next slide then. And fortunately, Michelle just did this presentation, so I think we'll be in good stead if we stick to the timeline that was suggested to get that response in shape for the July 21 deadline. But is there anything else we should add to this current status slide that – today?

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

So it's Larry, I wonder, if I understand correctly, what we're doing is a two directed piece, right? So on one hand we're going to be providing material to the Policy Committee and we're also going to be creating source material that could be used by others to submit, as a response to the Federal Register, is that right?

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Yes.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

And I guess a question may be for Michelle, is it appropriate for us to be submitting things through Policy Committee as part of a Federal Register response or what's the flow there.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

And Chi – yeah, Chitra and I have talked about it because – oh, Chitra and you maybe can update the group on who can or can't submit a proposal or can the committee, being a FACA even endorse it? Or does it need to come from the community? And so our effort then is to create from this side, just a report, we saw a gap and did the work, but ultimately it has to come from pe – from organizations outside of the committee.

Chitra Mohla, MS – Director, Workforce Programs Office of Provider Adoption Support (OPAS) – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

I'll let Michelle answer that question, Michelle Consolazio.

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Umm, well I was going to say that we respond to Federal Register notices all the time, but they're ONC ones that we typically respond to. So when it goes up through the Policy Committee, we typically do also share those through the Federal Register, but it's on behalf of the Policy Committee.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

Okay, so I guess what I'm verifying then is there actually would be a path to respond to the specific requests in the Federal Register.

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Yes, and o – but one –

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

(Indiscernible) – through the Policy –

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

– submission – yeah, through the Policy Committee.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

Okay, that's great.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

So could the Policy Committee be another stakeholder group to sign on with a larger collaboration of other stakeholders or would that be a difficult task?

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

I think – yeah, I think that is where we could get into trouble. So I don't – I will need to – not into trouble, but we'll have to check on that to make sure.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

But I think in terms of the actual recommendation going forward, I don't know that it needs to be a stakeholder thing that we're – that the committee is supporting. I think if we submitted the materials that you've been developing as part of – as sort of the recommendation packet from the Policy Committee. It doesn't address the collaborative piece that I know you're so big on pushing, but we can certainly acknowledge who contributed to it and bring it forward as a recommendation from the Policy Committee. So, I think it's pretty strong that way.

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

And like in the past, individuals can certainly respond to a Federal Register notice, so anyone could take very similar recommendations to what's proposed by the Policy Committee and then submit them on their own or another organization could do that as well. But we just can't do it on behalf of the Policy Committee, if that makes sense.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

No and Jen may want to weigh in in terms of how potentially the SOC Policy Committee might view a proposal done by a collaboration of groups. We've heard in the past that that bodes well, we'll say, for proposals in which the stakeholder groups that have representative interest have an agreement on the direction or recommendation, so that was part of why we are going down the path that we are in terms of hoping to achieve success with the recommendations.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

And I want to encourage that. I agree with you Michelle Dougherty that having a stakeholder group – a broad group of stakeholder groups bring forward a unified recommendation to the SOC Committee would be terrific. Almost trying to keep the – trying to get clear, because it's going to come up in the committee meeting, get clear that the recommendation is for the committee to pass this along as its recommendation and recognize the work that the broad stakeholders have already done. And encourage that submission, but that that would be separate. And I guess I'm hearing from Michelle Consolazio that's in fact probably the protocol.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

This is Norma, not wanting to put anybody on the spot, but I know that we have Michelle Dougherty and I think JoAnn's on the phone, too, is there – go ahead.

JoAnn W. Klinedinst, CPHIMS, DES, PMP, FHIMSS – Vice President, Professional Development – Health Information Management and Systems Society

Yes, JoAnn Klinedinst is here.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Oh, wonderful. So I was going to ask, and I don't know JoAnn you had an opportunity to join us on the last working call, but does that sound appropriate for your organization? And I don't know what AHIMA's doing either as far as this SOC recommendation is concerned, but I think we were talking about it, is there an intention to actually then look at this as a big chunk of perhaps then endorsing or supporting the direction?

JoAnn W. Klinedinst, CPHIMS, DES, PMP, FHIMSS – Vice President, Professional Development – Health Information Management and Systems Society

I was not – this is JoAnne Klinedinst. I was not on the last SOC workgroup call; I had a conflict so I could not attend. And could you please restate the question that you'd like me to respond to, to ensure that I understand.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Sure. So we were just talking about the – probably the best approach for this SOC summary recommendation to be as many organizations supporting and working together. And since HIMSS has been very supportive, AHIMA, I was just wonder if indeed the intention was to continue to at least support and help this summary recommendation be something that the organization would be supportive of.

JoAnn W. Klinedinst, CPHIMS, DES, PMP, FHIMSS – Vice President, Professional Development – Health Information Management and Systems Society

Yes, thank you for that restatement, Norma. Yes, this is – I have participated in the SOC workgroup, I have raised my hand to help craft responses – the definition of health information technology, and I had done that. I know there are additional assignments for me, I haven't seen them, but I'm very willing to continue to support the work of the SOC workgroup. But I also must say that I am leading an effort on behalf of HIMSS with interdisciplinary volunteers who are helping us craft comments and a response as well. So obviously, we're all vested in this and I will do my best to support the work of both groups.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Thank you, JoAnn.

JoAnn W. Klinedinst, CPHIMS, DES, PMP, FHIMSS – Vice President, Professional Development – Health Information Management and Systems Society

Certainly. And I will say that there are major decisions that need to be made whether recommending a major classification or folding this in the minor classification, I believe that's what they're called. And just is a topic on the parking lot for the moment as far as HIMSS is concerned, but I applaud the SOC workgroup to a tact that you're taking as well. And I think as many organizations that will be responding there are probably going to be as many opinions on how to move this forward. But certainly glad to support the work of both groups.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Any other comments? Okay, so I guess we can move forward to that last slide then. And I – this one has yellow; I don't think it was supposed to be pink or anything. But I feel as though this is the biggest chunk of where we'd certainly appreciate some input and dialogue as to new recommendations as we close out the work that has been going on – the very important work that's been going on. Certainly to recommend, and we've got two already started and would like to hear from the group again on anything that's missing, but the first recommendation is really that we continue to focus on, obviously, health IT workforce being integral to the new working group structure.

And there are quite a few things that we've noted to support that recommendation. I think we all believe that workforce is integral to everything that's happening on that new structure, as well as across the country. We just probably feel as though we haven't had enough time to do everything that needs to be done. And that also the ONC continues to connect with other federal agencies and the key stakeholders, furthering that workforce need that is required to sustain the effective and efficient interoperable health IT ecosystem that we're referring to, that supports every individual in the care environment and beyond. And actually I think the last slide that we were talking about, that had the yellow status, around all of the new competencies that were going to be required, could very much be linked to both these bullet points. But I'm wondering if there's anything that's missing or any other comments that we should include during that presentation back?

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

This side – this is Michelle, seems similar to the discussion we had on the other slide that had the current status in yellow.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Um hmm.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

And I wonder if there's some overlap in the recommendations that we added that would illustrate the work that needs to be done and the need to continue focusing on workforce.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Um hmm. Yeah I was just thinking, Michelle that maybe what we do is pull some of those additional comments that we got today and actually pull them in as sub-bullets or somehow, even if it needs to be crafted as a new recommendation here. Larry, do you have any thoughts on that?

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

So I think it would be good to organize this in a way that the new recommendations are clearly separate in some ways from the update on the existing ones.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Um hmm.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

So if that's what I'm hearing from Michelle, that's probably a useful structural piece so people don't sort of get in this confusion of old work, new work –

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Um hmm.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

– unless each of the slides has an old piece with a status and a new part like on the bottom or something.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Um hmm.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

So it might make sense to group it that way.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Yeah and I'm wondering if we couldn't make the connection between the parts of those...the older recommendation status and what caused us to create these new ones.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

Right.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

And I think there's a lot – yeah – in that slide that Michelle was just referring to, and even the work of the SOC summary –

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

Right.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

– that is supportive of this. So maybe we need to make that even clearer, the connection I mean.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

Yeah. One tiny typing issue, JASON is an acronym, so it should be all caps –

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Ah, very good.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

– and the JASON report.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Thank you. Any other thoughts, comments on this slide or the recommendations?

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

Yeah, I have a question about the sub-sub-bullet “if the technology goes down, the service goes down.” I don't know that it adds to what we're saying. Was it trying to say something specific?

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

I'm not sure about that one, I think we may have been just capturing a conversation that prepped these slides, so I think you're right, Larry, I don't think it adds anything. Unless we meant some – so, I mean I think that goes without saying.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

Okay.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Maybe it's just the key – a critical key is a trained workforce, maybe that's what we were trying to say there. Okay, if there are no other comments then Larry, I think I was done with the summary slides.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

Sounds like we're about done, right?

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Yes.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

We have some edits to make to this. We're planning, Michelle, do you remember the date on the meeting back to the workgroup?

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

June 26.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

June 26, so, next week, to have the summary slides for the Certification/Adoption Workgroup as a whole, en route to a presentation to the Policy Committee a couple of weeks after that. That's really terrific, I feel like there's been a great amount of work done here, a really nice summary of going back to earlier recommendations and coming forward with some statuses and updates. It's something the Policy Committee probably doesn't get enough of and I think the work on the SOC is just spectacular. I know the document was still full of a lot of draft material, but it's looking like it's really coming together.

Chitra Mohla, MS – Director, Workforce Programs Office of Provider Adoption Support (OPAS) – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

So we have no other meetings planned for the future – this is Chitra. Do we want to schedule one more meeting after July 8, just to finalize the SOC submission?

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

So it's likely we'll get something back from the Policy Committee, so that's probably not a bad idea.

Chitra Mohla, MS – Director, Workforce Programs Office of Provider Adoption Support (OPAS) – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Okay.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

And Michelle, do you have any guidance on when the new committee structure is likely to be announced or is that still a work in progress.

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Unfortunately, it's still a work in progress. I wish I had a good answer.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

Okay.

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

But we'll work on scheduling one more meeting after July 8.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

Okay, thanks.

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Okay, are we ready for public comment, Larry?

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

That would be terrific.

Public Comment

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Okay, operator, can you please open the lines?

Rebecca Armendariz – Altarum Institute

If you would like to make a public comment and you are listening via your computer speakers, please dial 1-877-705-2976 and press *1. Or if you are listening via your telephone, you may press *1 at this time to be entered into the queue. We have no comment at this time.

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Well thank you everyone and have a wonderful weekend.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Thank you.

Larry Wolf – Health IT Strategist – Kindred Healthcare

Thanks.

Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP – Director of Research and Development – AHIMA Foundation

Thank you, bye, bye.

Norma Morganti – Executive Director, Health Information Technology Learning Resource Expansion Grant – Cuyahoga Community College

Bye, bye.

Michelle Consolazio, MPA – Federal Advisory Committee Program Lead – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Bye.