On August 27th, CHeQ hosted the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Emerging HIE Forum at UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, CA. This Forum focused on non-technology considerations that are vital to the success of health information exchange (HIE). Organizations involved in promoting and enabling HIE in their communities were invited to attend to hear presentations from experts and to connect with others pursuing similar missions throughout California. Scott Christman, CHeQ’s Executive Director, welcomed participants and thanked them for their work toward exchange. Rebecca Kriz, CHeQ’s Senior Manager focused on Emerging HIEs, discussed the agenda for the day, shared CHeQ’s newest Community HIO map snapshot, and set the collaborative and collegial tone for the day.

\textbf{Participant Introductions}

A number of attendees from the first Emerging HIE Forum returned and were joined by others attending for the first time. Each organization in attendance introduced their HIE effort, the members of their effort in attendance, and the current status of their projects. Many groups have made significant progress toward selecting vendors since the first forum in June.

\textit{The following organizations were present at the Emerging HIE Forum:}

- ConnectHealthcare
- HealthShare Bay Area
- LANES
- Marin County
- RAIN
- SacValley MedShare
- San Luis Obispo Medical Education and Research Foundation
- Vigilance Health
- CalOHII
- CHHS
- CAHIE

\textbf{Responsibility Sharing Between HIOs and Vendors}

\textit{Bill Beighe, Co-chair CAHIE & Santa Cruz HIE CIO}

In this session, Bill Beighe discussed the importance of responsibility sharing between HIOs and vendors. Bill explained that choosing a vendor is a long-term decision that has significant implications for the business of the HIO.
Bill stressed that emerging HIE efforts need to be aware of their own expected responsibilities after choosing a vendor. For example, an HIO is usually responsible for master patient index (MPI) management. Clear expectations on the roles of both parties and good expectation management can help to define the relationship between HIO and vendor.

Bill also discussed the model of the HIE service provider. A HIE service provider will typically offer HIE services, including software and hosting, but will also offer operational support for a monthly fee. As with the traditional vendor model, governance of the HIO remains local. Bill reminded participants that data drives usage and suggested that emerging HIE efforts ask interested health care providers what information they need to build data richness.

Lastly, Bill presented his **Checklist for a Health Information Exchange**. This useful tool provides emerging HIOs with a structured way to think about how responsibilities will be shared between their vendor and their own organization. ChEQ will be making this Checklist available in the next update of the HIO Development Guide.

**Essential Documents**

*Allen Briskin, JD, Pillsbury Law*

*Aaron Seib, Consultant, Cal OHII*

Allen Briskin and Aaron Seib, who were both involved in the development of CalOHII’s Model Modular Participant’s Agreement (MMPA), spoke to Forum participants about essential documents when developing an HIE effort. The MMPA, a model to use when developing a participant’s agreement, aims to make inter-HIO exchange easier and more secure. All HIOs are unique, so the MMPA can be modified depending on an initiative’s needs. The speakers discussed the importance of signing a participant’s agreement in addition to or in replacement of business associate agreement (BAA).

Allen covered the rights and obligations of those parties who sign the participant’s agreement. Allen also suggested participants consider the importance of developing a policies and procedures document in addition to a participant’s agreement. While a participant’s agreement must be legally amended, a policies and procedures document can be updated without re-ratification by both parties.

Organizations in attendance asked specific questions regarding their own agreements. They also discussed the Data Use and Reciprocal Support Agreement (DURSA), which is the legal multi-party trust agreement that supports inter-HIO exchange through the Healtheway eHealth Exchange.

The MMPA can be found at: [http://www.ohii.ca.gov/calohi/aboutcalohii/news/tabid/137/vw/1/itemid/12/model-modular-participants-agreement.aspx](http://www.ohii.ca.gov/calohi/aboutcalohii/news/tabid/137/vw/1/itemid/12/model-modular-participants-agreement.aspx). Questions about the use of the MMPA can be sent to Aaron Seib, aaron.seib@23eleven.net.
Educational Materials

Leah Hart, Communications Specialist, CHeQ

Leah Hart led an open discussion with Forum participants regarding the development of HIE educational materials. Part of CHeQ’s current plan is to develop materials that convey the benefits of HIE to both health care providers and consumers. Participants agreed that their top priority is having access to materials that share patient stories. It was suggested that patient scenarios be developed that show the use of HIE through the lifecycle of a health event.

Participants noted that materials at both the state (CHeQ) level and those that could be individually branded by each HIO would be useful. A collective suggestion involved creating value propositions about HIE for each stakeholder. Anyone with additional suggestions for materials, target audiences, and/or media of delivery, is welcome to contact Leah directly at leah.hart@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu.

California Trust Framework

Rim Cothren, Technical Director, CHeQ

Rim Cothren updated participants on the California trust framework (CTF) and the evolution of trust communities in the development of inter-HIO exchange. Rim explained the concept of “scalable trust,” in which exchange can be secure without point-to-point data sharing agreements.

Rim introduced the CTF Pilot currently underway to explore inter-HIO exchange in California using national standards. The Pilot will end in November, and the framework will then go into production under the California Association of Health Information Exchange’s (CAHIE’s) management.

Rim reiterated that emerging HIE initiatives are welcome to join CAHIE even if they are not yet exchanging data. Those interested in participating in CAHIE should contact Karen Boruff at KBoruff@ohi.ca.gov.

Rim also discussed related activities of the National Association for Trusted Exchange (NATE), of which California is a core member, the EHR/HIE Interoperability Workgroup, Healtheway, and DirectTrust.

Next Emerging HIE Forum – November 14

The next Emerging HIE Forum will be held November 14 from 9:00am-noon, in conjunction with the HIE Stakeholder Summit. CHeQ welcomes participant input on agenda content. Please contact Rebecca Kriz, rebecca.kriz@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu with comments or questions.