# TESTIMONY FOR THE RECORD


LEE BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ELECTRONIC HEALTHCARE NETWORK ACCREDITATION COMMISSION (EHNAC)


NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON VITAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS

EXECUTIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

Hearing on "Meaningful Use" of Health Information Technology

April 28-29, 2009

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel

2660 Woodley Rd., NW

Washington, DC 20008

## DISCUSSION

EHNAC would like to recognize the excellent work of NCVHS to address the issue of "Meaningful Use of Health Information Technology (HIT).' This is a critical juncture in healthcare (HC) evolution and the industry has a significant opportunity to provide a more defined industry roadmap for HIT evolution including clinical transactions with a major focus on interoperability and systems integration.

There has been significant discussion regarding the development and implementation of electronic medical records, interoperability, systems integration and the need to develop standards models and oversight. EHNAC supports the evolution and development of the framework and roadmap for the industry. As the industry introduces and develops the clinical HIT environment including EMR, attachments, lab, pharmacy and other transactions and messages the issues of privacy, security, confidentiality and "trust" are critical components to assure the technology and systems meet industry requirements and needs.

EHNAC supports the need for certification and accreditation of the vendors, products and networks to assure compliance with the standards that are developed and implemented through industry consensus and to further demonstrate "trust" for the bi-directional dissemination of this information between the various healthcare stakeholders. We support the efforts of CCHIT, HITSP and the many standards development organizations (SDO's) to develop the transactions, messages and certification framework for HIT.

EHNAC is a 501C6 not-for-profit accreditation entity chartered in 1993 and is federally recognized as a Standards Development Organization. Approximately 50 organizations have been accredited through its accreditation programs that focus on the areas of Privacy, Security & Confidentiality; Technical Performance; Business Practices; and Resources. Please go to the EHNAC website for more detail on criteria and lists of accredited companies www.EHNAC.org . EHNAC has several accreditation programs which address specific healthcare stakeholders including:

**EHNAC Accreditation Programs**

***Healthcare Network Accreditation Program (HNAP):*** Electronic Healthcare Networks, Clearinghouses, Third Party Administrators, Medical Billers and Payers.

***Financial Services Accreditation Program (FSAP):*** Financial Services Organizations and including networks and lockbox operations.

***Electronic Prescribing Program (ePAP):*** ePrescribing Organizations

**Additional Programs in Development Include:**

***Application Service Provider (ASP) Electronic Health Record (EHR***): ASP EHR Vendors. Currently seeking beta candidates and draft criteria already developed and working closely with Maryland HealthCare Commission regarding implementation.

***Health Information Exchange (HIE), Organization (HIO) and Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO):*** Currently completing development of the HIE criteria projected by end of May 2009. EHNAC is seeking beta sites for the program to provide additional feedback and comments. The criteria will be made available for a 60 day public review and with the expectation to finalize and launch the national program in early 2010.

EHNAC believes it is imperative that the industry work collaboratively with the various stakeholders including standards organizations, certification organizations, payers, providers and other key entities in an effort to leverage their collective strengths, minimize redundancy and additional cost to the industry. We believe the need for a third party review against industry standards that have also been approved through consensus of key stakeholders is critical to assure that the "bar" is reasonably set, fair, and consistently applied to all applicable entities evolving to a new HIT state. EHNAC is well-positioned to assist the industry with achieving compliance with HIPAA privacy and security, network infrastructure, policies, procedures and the necessary resources to achieve better delivery of care through our collaborative and industry leading accreditation programs.

There are many stakeholders to coordinate and engage as we collectively agree to migrate to our new HIT environment and each has specific goals, requirements and vision. However, we believe that to achieve the common goal of implementing electronic medical records, ensuring privacy, confidentiality and security of the transmission of data, achieving interoperability and assuring seamless integration is a challenge and opportunity for the industry. Once we can agree on the standards, metrics, outcomes and the framework; then the key is to execute against the roadmap and assure that all the stakeholders are "at the table", understand the issues and can work towards achieving the industry goals and objectives.