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Minutes from January 14, 2008 Arizona HealthQuery Data Partner Meeting

Present: Twila Burdick, Banner Health System; Andrea Smiley, Magellan Health; Marc Leib, AHCCCS; Brad Butler, Banner Thunderbird; Bill Pike, Carondelet Health Network; Marisue Garganta, SJHMC; Jim Kennedy, MIHS; Abe Peters, Wickenburg Hospital; Kathy Byrne, El Rio CHC; Joyce Graham, MIHS; George Runger, ASU & CHIR; Phil Hamilton, ADOA; Kathleen Dowler, CHW; Mark Slater, Scottsdale HealthCare; Dave Drachman, MIHS; Mark Wiest, CIGNA; Christine Goldberg, AHCCCS; Debbie Nixon, YPIQ; Alan Pitt, SJHMC; Richard Porter, ADHS; Robert Greenes, Biomedical Informatics Department; Bill Johnson, Center for Health Information & Research (CHIR); Wade Bannister, CHIR; Ross Merritt, CHIR; Kathi Russell, CHIR; Heather Gray, CHIR; Miwa Edge, CHIR; Tameka Jackson, CHIR; Leon Bendler, CHIR; Patrick McHugh, CHIR

Via Phone: Thomas James, Humana; Todd Hirte, Yuma Regional Medical Center; Tom Hicks, private practice, Merle Turner, Warner Family Practice

Introductions & Welcome: Bill Johnson began the meeting by welcoming those in attendance both in person and those able to teleconference in. Several first time attendees joined the meeting.

New Data Partners: Carondelet Health Network, Bill Pike, representative

Wickenburg Community Hospital, Abe Peters, representative

“Almost” New Data Partners: Magellan Health of Arizona, Andrea Smiley, representative
Humana, Inc., Thomas James, representative
CIGNA, Mark Wiest, representative

CHIR’s Expert Physician Panel: (in attendance) Brad Butler, MD; Alan Pitt, MD; Thomas James, MD; Tom Hicks, MD; Merle Turner, DO

CHIR, with the assistance of the Arizona Medical Association and the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association, has developed an “Expert Physician Panel.” These physicians, recommended by their respective associations, represent a wide range of specialties and practice locations. Our panel was invited to serve a dual purpose—first, to work with us in varying capacities on our CMS funded federal project, *Better Quality Information for Medicare Beneficiaries*, and secondly, to direct and inform the clinical component of CHIR’s research efforts. CHIR extends our thanks to the expert physicians who are participating and the professional associations for their assistance.

2007 Accomplishments

CHIR completed its two year study funded by NIH—**Health Disparities between Hispanic and Non-Hispanic Children in Yuma County**. Yuma is a minority/majority community in which there are more Hispanic children than there are non-Hispanic children. This, in addition to our robust Yuma dataset, allowed CHIR to look at health care and health outcomes for more than 70,000 children of primarily Mexican descent with more than 24,000 non-Hispanic White children. Journal articles detailing the results are being written for submissions to scholarly journals. A preview of the results will be presented to the Yuma community before the final results are published.

CHIR published two in its series of Community Reports in 2007. Our **Health Insurance in Arizona** series compares widely used national estimates on insured individuals with two additional methods of estimating uninsured individuals in Arizona using AZHQ. Ultimately, these reports dispute the CPS estimate that 18.2% of Arizonans are uninsured and finds that somewhere between approximately 6.5-12.5% of Arizona's population is uninsured. Both reports are available on our website <http://chir.asu.edu>.

CHIR finished a project in August for AHCCCS looking at active primary care providers in Arizona who provide services to AHCCCS members as well as those who do not. This was a follow-up study to the [2006 AHCCCS Survey of Providers](#) that was conducted by CHIR.

CHIR completed work under contract with the Valley Fever Center for Excellence last fall. Using AZHQ, CHIR looked at AHCCCS members with diagnoses of Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP) and/or Valley Fever and compared demographic characteristics of each group. CHIR also provided information on the numbers of lab tests ordered to diagnosis Valley Fever. Dr. Susan Hoover with the Tucson based Center is using these results to inform her research. **NOTE: Due to the positive responses we received on this information, CHIR has invited Dr. Hoover to present at our next Data Partner meeting in April.**

Current Research Study Updates

ADEQ/ADHS Study of Pollution and its Health Effects: George Runger, PhD, Professor of Industrial Engineering, presented preliminary findings of this collaborative study. Dr. Runger is one of CHIR's regular faculty collaborators. CHIR's role in this project is to utilize data mining techniques to discover potential correlations between health care utilization data and pollution sensor data. The goal of this Environmental Protection Agency funded project is to help develop an improved system of health advisory alerts for children.

CHIR & Arizona Healthcare and Hospital Association (AzHHA): CHIR researchers have been working under contract with AzHHA's Healthcare Institute since May 2007 to study the nursing workforce in Arizona. CHIR has expanded its focus on tracking Arizona's health care workforce to now include RNs

and Advanced Practice Nurses and is slated to further expand to collect data on LPNs. Additionally, AzHHA has contracted with CHIR to analyze physician survey responses regarding reasons why physicians have left practice in Arizona to practice elsewhere.

CHIR & the Arizona Healthcare Cost Containment System (AHCCCS): In July, CHIR launched a new survey tool for Arizona physicians in our ongoing census survey of the physician workforce. With financial support from AHCCCS, CHIR is seeking to provide AHCCCS with information regarding physician attitudes toward and implementation of health information technology and health information exchange. This is a two year project.

Better Quality Information for Medicare Beneficiaries (BQI): CHIR has completed year one of this 2 year national demonstration project sponsored by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This project is focused on measuring primarily process of care outcomes for Medicare beneficiaries. CHIR is currently working on the validation piece of results and will be collaborating with selected physicians from its Expert Panel in this effort. For more information about the federal initiative, see this website: <http://www.hhs.gov/faq/healthprograms/valuedrivenhealthcaare/1734.html>

AZHQ at Work

Database Highlights: Wade Bannister described the size and coverage of the data now collected by AZHQ thanks to its stakeholders and our expansion efforts. The data now include more than 9 million persons who have received health care in Arizona since 1999. Claims for 2004-2007 represent more than 4.6 million people. From 2004-2007 in Maricopa County, AZHQ contains more than 4.1 million inpatient hospital visits, more than 6.2 million outpatient hospital visits, more than 4.5 million emergency department visits, nearly 28 million physician office visits, and approximately 21 million pharmacy claims. Currently, AZHQ is made up of 34 organizations representing nearly 60 entities who sharing their data with AZHQ.

MRSA: Heather Gray, from the CHIR data management group, presented some preliminary information on Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureas (MRSA) in Maricopa County using AZHQ. CHIR would very much like to pursue an expanded report from our promising initial findings and is seeking a funding source. If you have any ideas, please contact us.

Research Studies in Process in 2008

Phoenix Healthcare Value Measurement Initiative (PHVMI)

NAOMI: Carondelet Health Network, El Rio Community Health Center, & St. Elizabeth of Hungary Clinic

CHW-East Valley Community Health Needs Assessment

St. Joseph's Crockett and Osborn School Based Clinic Study

Trauma Center Reporting System (in development process)

Organizational Items

Bill Johnson reported he is working with University administrators to develop a more streamlined contracting process for proposed research contract collaborations with CHIR. Stay tuned!

SAVE THE DATE

In keeping with our goal of quarterly meetings, please **SAVE THE DATE of APRIL 28, 2008** for our spring meeting. This meeting will be held downtown in the Virginia G. Piper Auditorium on the UA College of Medicine-Phoenix, in partnership with Arizona State University. We plan to have both videoconferencing and teleconferencing ability for this meeting. I will provide more information about this meeting as we finalize details.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Russell