



Minutes from May 21, 2007

Arizona HealthQuery Data Partner Meeting

Present: Angelo Edge, ValueOptions; Phil Hamilton, ADOA; Jim Kennedy, MIHS; Richard Porter, ADHS; Mark Slater, Scottsdale HealthCare; Marisue Garganta, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center; Debbie Nixon, YPIQ; Joyce Graham, MIHS; Maricela Solis de Kester, Carondelet Health Network; Jackie Lundblad; Sun Health Corporation; Andrei Damian, Cardiovascular Consultants; Dan Coleman, John C. Lincoln Health Network; Tom Kirsch, Mountain Park Health Center; Christine Goldberg, AHCCCS; Mark Weist, CIGNA; Janice Ertl, St. Vincent de Paul's; John Hensing, Banner Health System; Roger Hughes, St. Luke's Health Initiatives; Elizabeth McNamee, St. Luke's Health Initiatives; Bill Johnson, Center for Health Information & Research (CHIR); Wade Bannister, CHIR; Kathi Russell, CHIR

Site visit guests: Serena Appiah, AHRQ/AQA Project Manager from Delmarva Foundation for Medical Care; Tennille Daniels, BQI Project Manager from Delmarva Foundation for Medical Care; Dwayne Eutsy, Delmarva Foundation for Medical Care

Roger Hughes began the meeting by welcoming those in attendance. He reviewed the connections between Arizona HealthQuery (the community health database developed and grown by the voluntary participation of data partners), the Center for Health Information & Research (CHIR, Arizona State University's research group that serves as home to AZHQ); BQI (Better Quality Information for Medicare Beneficiaries, a six site—CHIR is one of the sites—national demonstration project sponsored by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services looking at methods of measuring process of care outcomes for Medicare beneficiaries); and the Phoenix Healthcare Value Measurement Initiative (or PHVMI, the regional initiative in Arizona built upon collaboration of providers, payers, and employers charged with advancing the quality, effectiveness, efficiency, and outcomes of health care in Arizona.

Bill Johnson introduced and thanked the newest data partners in attendance today: Andrei Damian, Maricela Solis de Kester, Phil Hamilton and their representative organizations. Bill said he would like to spend a portion of today's meeting focusing on relationships with our data partners. We have some very long term relationships and those that are newer and typically cultivate relationships on a CEO or CFO level but we find that, beyond our initial contacts, there are often few people in our partner organizations that know about Arizona HealthQuery. Because of this, both CHIR and our partner organizations may be missing opportunities to collaborate.

Bill Johnson explained the framework of CHIR's series of community reports and asked those in attendance if they had received a copy of our latest report *Health Insurance in Arizona: Part I, Children of Yuma County 1999-2004*. Since many in the group could not recollect receiving this report, Kathi Russell will be responsible for resending a link to CHIR's website where downloads are available.

Bill Johnson then posed a set of questions to the data partners regarding our next potential community report. He described the following ideas and asked the attendees to select which report they would be interested in seeing first:

- 1) a description of patient profiles in Maricopa County, looking at an array of conditions and comorbidities
- 2) patterns of customary care—given these patient profiles, what constitutes usual care in Maricopa County

Bill Johnson then solicited ideas from the data partners in attendance for future reports. John Hensing suggested that when he thinks of customary care, he thinks of it as disease specific. He suggested the idea that it would be interesting to look population wide at a chronic condition like congestive heart failure (CHF) that is receiving a lot of attention from CMS and look at mortality post-hospitalization across venues of care. Andre Damian suggested a longer time period than CMS's interest of 30 days after discharge and encouraged upwards of 6 months if possible. John Hensing, Andre Damian, and Dan Coleman will all be on an ad hoc committee to help with this request.

Phil Hamilton suggested it would be interesting to look at disparate care coverage by health plans that have same or similar benefit design because of differences in technology reviews. Experimental treatment for multiple sclerosis is an example.

Maricela Solis de Kester said Carondelet would be interested in the CHF issue, especially because they have a heart hospital in their network. She also said they are very interested in the uninsured in Pima County and southern Arizona in general. Carondelet is picking up a rural Nogales hospital in the near future.

Bill Johnson introduced the topic of collaboration with our data partners and how vital it is for our Center and AZHQ. Kathi Russell gave some examples of “ad hoc” collaborations— when a data partner has a question and it is relatively a basic question that we can turn around in a short time period; “project” collaborations—a more formal process that requires more resources on CHIR's end to answer the research question, entails a contractual agreement and we charge for it; and “joint” projects—CHIR and a data partner/s join forces to collaborate on a proposal for outside funding of a project.

Tom Kirsch suggested he would be interested in looking at 9615x codes to see if the occurrence of this service impacts ED visits, costs of care, adherence. Jim Kennedy said MIHS would be interested in this as well. Kathi and Tom exchanged business cards and will follow up.

Bill Johnson reported he is in the midst of reorganizing AZHQ's advisory committee. Joe Anderson of Schaller Anderson has agreed to chair the committee. Bill is also creating a physician panel to be available to consult to CHIR for a reasonable fee on clinical type issues relative to their specialties.

Wade Bannister discussed the launch of CHIR's secure FTP servers for transfers of data. Everyone received a detailed explanation in their packets for further information and also to pass on to the appropriate person in their organization. Heather Gray of CHIR is the primary contact for this project.

Bill Johnson asked if there were any other questions, issues, etc. Maricela asked about the issue of costs of care for undocumented individuals and the group discussed this.

Bill Johnson asked for ideas to help keep this group in touch. Many said newsletters would be a nice idea as long as they were electronic. Kathi Russell reminded the group that we do have an operational website now that includes our published reports and a searchable publications database. Our address is <http://chir.asu.edu>. Phil Hamilton suggested we post our ad hoc requests to our website to help generate ideas. When asked about the frequency of data partner meetings, Angelo Edge suggested quarterly meetings beginning in September. **TENTATIVE DATE: SEPTEMBER 17, 2007.**

Roger Hughes then closed the meeting thanking everyone in attendance. He announced that SLHI is hosting a conference on December 7 and they will be sending out "save the date" emails in September regarding the event. One scheduled guest is Mark McLellan.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Russell