

There will be an inaugural planning committee meeting to develop a health information exchange strategy for Alameda and Contra Costa County providers of care. The meeting will be held on November 19th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the ATT offices at 2600 Camino Ramon, San Ramon - 1st Floor.

The unprecedented legislation passed in February with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has shined a spotlight on healthcare reform and in particular, on the benefits of information technology in creating higher quality, more efficient and therefore more cost effective care. In the past couple of months, the HIT Policy Committee in Washington has quickly evolved the definition of 'meaningful use,' which provides the standards for receiving federal incentive dollars for EHR adoption. One of the cornerstones of the meaningful use definition is the requirement for interoperability through Health Information Exchanges (HIE), a means of securely exchanging healthcare data across disparate entities and technology platforms.

Since the Town Hall meeting in May, which our stakeholders sponsored with the California e-Health Collaborative, we have worked to organize a meeting of medical information trading partners to discuss and plan for maximizing the opportunities available to improve care in our community and achieve meaningful use for our providers.

A detailed agenda for the November 19th meeting will follow, but the primary purpose of the meeting is to work together to create a organizational structure and timetable for the requisite governance and planning activities between now and the first of March, 2010. We anticipate that from the meeting two subcommittees will form around Governance and Planning and an aggressive schedule will be set.

To confirm your participation at the November 19th meeting, please call Lori Hack at 415-260-6277 or email her at lori.hack@objecthealth.com.

Sent on behalf of Don Livsey, Dave Minch and the other members of the Alameda / Contra Costa County Health Information Organization (ACCHIO) Steering Committee