

# THINC RHIO, Inc.

Taconic Health Information Network and Community

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THINC RHIO Meeting of the Board of Directors  
December 03, 2008, 6:30pm-8:30pm

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**Board Members Present:** Mike Duffy, Chair  
Dr. Mark Foster  
Dr. Gene Heslin  
Dr. Paul Kaye  
Arthur Levin  
Art Nizza  
Robert Savage

**Non-Board Members Present:**

A. John Blair, III; Susan Stuard, Asha Upadhyay

**Meeting materials:** 1) Meeting agenda; 2) October 29, 2008 meeting minutes, 3) October 2008 year-to-date financials and 2009 budget; 4) THINC Project Update for December 2008; 5) THINC Committees Update December 2008

## I. PUBLIC SESSION

### A) APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 29, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

Mike Duffy, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2008 meeting of the Board of Directors. A motion was made and seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

### B) FINANCIAL UPDATE AND 2009 BUDGET

Ms. Stuard informed the Board that the Financial Oversight committee met via conference call on December 2, 2008 to review the year to date financials and the 2009 budget. The committee decided to forward this information to the Board for approval. THINC will have a cash surplus of approximately \$161,000 at the end of 2008. Mike Duffy said that this was net income before taxes. This surplus will be used to pay the cash match obligation for HEAL 5. Mike Duffy asked Susan Stuard to look at a three year financial plan for THINC. Susan will review this at an upcoming 2009 THINC Board meeting. Mike Duffy asked for a motion to approve the 2009 budget. The motion was seconded and the 2009 budget was unanimously approved.

### C) THINC PROJECTS UPDATE

Susan Stuard gave an update on the following projects:

- **HEAL 1**

Susan Stuard was informed by Steve Smith from OHITT (Office of Health Information Technology Transformation) at NYS DOH that the HEAL-NY office has requested additional documentation on THINC's HEAL 1 quarter eight and quarter nine vouchers. THINC has already provided the HEAL-NY office with one set of requested documentation for quarter eight and this is a second request for additional documentation on quarter eight. The letter for the quarter nine voucher is a "stop-the-clock" notice, requesting detailed information on installation

records for all EHR implementations, documentation of \$12 million worth of matching funds and evidence of payment from THINC to MedAllies.

Lori Evans cannot address THINC issues at NYS DOH until her two year moratorium is up in April 2009. Instead the Deputy Director of OHITT, Patricia Hale, is discussing concerns about unfair administrative burden being placed upon THINC with Deputy Commissioner Jim Clyne of NYS DOH. OHITT is concerned that the HEAL-NY office is unfairly singling out a project and changing documentation requirements for the contract midstream, without appropriate notice to the grantee. OHITT said they need a few days to discuss these issues with Jim Clyne. Susan Stuard proposed to the Board that OHITT be given a few days to work on this, then as necessary pursue it with lobbyists and if necessary pursue advocacy with the local legislators. Mike Duffy suggested that THINC have a face-to-face meeting with the HEAL office and give them the documentation they requested and then ask what else needs to be done.

- **NHIN2**

Susan Stuard reported that this project is moving along on target. The demonstration for this project is schedule for December 16 in Washington, DC. The contract ends next month.

- **CDC HIE**

Susan Stuard reported that this project is moving along on target. It is anticipated that year two of this project will be renewed which will give THINC additional funding.

- **P4P/Medical Home**

THINC has received a communication from NYSDOH reinstating data submission requirements for the P4P grant with a deadline of December 31, 2008. First, NYS DOH is looking for quality metrics data from all six health plans participating in THINC's project. THINC expects MedAllies to have signed agreements from four of the six health plans in time for this data submission and NYS DOH has already been informed of this. We expect that the remaining two health plans will provide data in the second quarter of 2009. Second, NYSDOH is looking for full inpatient quality measures data sets from hospitals, not just the aggregated measures that hospitals submit to the CMS Hospital Compare website.

Susan Stuard noted that it might be possible to get the data submissions completed with an extension from NYS DOH. She and Dr. Blair noted that hospitals may not be able to produce the requested data set no matter how much time is allowed. Susan Stuard said that THINC will quickly assess the situation, inform NYSDOH of what it believes that it can accomplish and in what time frame. If it is not acceptable to NYSDOH, then THINC may lose the grant contract. Susan Stuard noted that THINC should be able to keep the project going even with the loss of the grant. It is likely that the health plans would stay on board and the project would continue without the incentive payment matching funds from the NYS DOH grant.

Susan Stuard said that we may ask Board members for their help in reaching out to hospitals to get the data sets from them in the next four weeks. Dr. Heslin said to let him know as soon as possible the details of what needs to be done.

- **HEAL 5 – SHIN-NY and CIS**

The HEAL 5 project is proceeding on target. The project work plans and budgets were submitted on October 31, 2008 to NYS DOH. The first quarter voucher was submitted in November.

## **D) THINC COMMITTEES REPORT**

THINC Privacy and Consumer and Quality and Clinical Committees met on November 20, 2008.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to add the new committee members mentioned below.

### *PRIVACY and CONSUMER COMMITTEE*

Steve Sarg from Hudson River Healthcare has been added as a new member to the Privacy Committee. (Please see THINC Committee update document for details about the discussion at the meeting)

### *QUALITY and CLINICAL COMMITTEE*

Mary Donnelly from the New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians has been added to the committee. The committee reached a high level agreement on the attribution logic to be used to connect the physician to the health plan member. The committee reviewed the high level data flow for the project and the methods by which the quality metrics would be distributed to the health plans and physicians (Please see THINC Committee update document for details about the discussion at the meeting)

## **E) NEW BUSINESS**

Susan Stuard informed the Board that Mount Sinai Hospital applied to the State Hospital Review Planning Council (SHRPC) for approval of a certificate of need (CON) for their Epic electronic health record installation. SHRPC approved the CON application with two contingencies that relate to RHIOs. First, the hospital must ensure that the Epic software meets the EHR requirements set forth by NYS DOH and the Statewide Collaboration Process. Second, the hospital must provide an explanation of how its inpatient and ambulatory systems are connected to the SHIN-NY and how the hospital is participating in its local RHIO.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the public meeting and the Board reconvened in Executive Session.