



William F. Vanaskie, Chairman

Linda Hunt, Secretary

Arizona Medical Information Exchange

December 8, 2009

RE: Statement from the AMIE Board of Directors

Arizona has been a recognized leader in health information technology since 2005 when the first Statewide Roadmap was established. Medicaid Transformation Grant (MTG) funding created additional opportunities for the State and in 2008 the Arizona Medical Information Exchange (AMIE) was launched first as a pilot Health Information Exchange (HIE), and later continued in operation. Most recently, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provisions afford States and health care providers with a unique opportunity to leverage efforts to achieve a vision of interoperable information technology for health care.

In 2009, a non-profit board was created with inaugural data partners to provide a governance structure for AMIE. Since its inception, AMIE has been funded with MTG monies. These funds will be fully exhausted on December 31, 2009. The AMIE Board recently met to address funding and operational issues and made the following decisions:

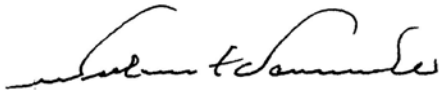
1. The AMIE Board feels it is most appropriate to pursue a vision of developing a single state level HIE plan and roadmap.
2. The AMIE Board passed a motion for staff to request and schedule a meeting before the end of the calendar year with the Southern Arizona Health Information Exchange (SAHIE) Board in order to pursue a collaborative working agreement with the intent of creating a single statewide HIE.
3. The AMIE Board decided to suspend technical operations of the HIE on December 31, 2009 unless significant funding can be identified by December 24, 2009.
4. The AMIE Board will assess their organizations an amount necessary to fund for a three month period a small senior staff team that will be focused on participating in all strategic planning efforts that will be occurring toward realization of the vision to create a single statewide HIE.
5. As part of pursuing the Vision, the Board and staff will be focused on the following tasks over the next three months:
 - Develop a state-wide Health Information Exchange vision and proposed architecture.
 - Develop an equitable and sustainable Health Information Exchange business model for a single state wide HIE.
 - Recommend a governance structure that can oversee the operation long term of a single statewide HIE
 - Participate in a process to determine a state-wide technical solution with a single source of operations.

AMIE has been a success as the only operating Health Information Exchange in our State. The grant-funded project was able to successfully demonstrate the value of Health Information Exchange for participating hospitals, clinicians and members.

As part of ARRA, the Office of the National Coordinator's (ONC) State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program provides federal funding for Health Information Exchange that will become available in early 2010. Initially, these funds will be provided for planning purposes and the development of a statewide HIE strategic plan. The AMIE Board expressed a strong desire to work with the Governor's Office of Economic Recovery, Arizona Health E-Connection and SAHIE to target these limited resources to establish the best Strategic HIE plan possible for the State of Arizona.

Given the limited resources available for Health Information Technology, the AMIE Board wants to pursue the best strategy possible and that is why financial and staff resources will be focused on working collaboratively with stakeholders over the next several months to establish a single statewide HIE

For the Board,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William F. Vanaskie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

William F. Vanaskie
Chairman
Arizona Medical Information Exchange