

WISHIN Policy Committee 2011 Work Plan

Executive Summary

2011 will be a challenging year for WISHIN, as it simultaneously works to rapidly facilitate the use of the Direct Project as an initial, simplified version of health information exchange by Fall 2011 (Phase I operations) and also works to make plans for implementing and operating more robust health information exchange capabilities in 2012 (Phase II operations). Similarly, 2011 will be a challenging year for the Policy Committee as it helps to guide WISHIN through these dual implementations.

To help organize the Policy Committee's work, the attached Detailed 2011 Work Plan for the Policy Committee sets out specific, discrete tasks as well as more generalized ongoing tasks for the Committee for both Phase I operations and Phase II operations. Given the significant amount of work that needs to take place, the Work Plan proposes the use of several Work Groups working concurrently, each of which has specific tasks and outputs to the full Policy Committee. It is expected that each of the Work Groups will share the results of their work and receive feedback from Committee members and other Work Groups during full Committee meetings. Some of the Work Groups will be shared with the Technical Committee.

The proposed Work Groups and their goals are provided below:

Phase I Operations

Direct Project Rapid Implementation Cross-Collaboration Work Group (shared with Technical Committee) - This Work Group's primary goal is to quickly identify and serve as a resource to help resolve critical issues necessary for WISHIN to meet its goal of facilitating the use of the Direct Project in Wisconsin by Fall 2011.

Phase II Operations

Internal Policy Cross-Collaboration Work Group (shared with Technical Committee) - This Work Group's primary goal in Phase II is to leverage its Technical Committee member expertise and Policy Committee member expertise to guide the development of WISHIN's internal privacy, security, operational, and accountability policies.

Liability Issues Work Group - This Work Group's primary goal will be to explore liability issues related to HIE and WISHIN's operations from the sometimes competing perspective of providers/participants and WISHIN, and to provide recommendations to WISHIN on how to resolve and reconcile those issues through internal policies, participation agreements, legislation, etc.

Interstate Exchange Work Group (shared with Technical Committee) - The primary goal of this Work Group is to explore issues unique to interstate health information exchange by WISHIN and Wisconsin providers, and to provide recommendations to mitigate risks to WISHIN and Wisconsin providers unique to interstate exchange.

Participation Agreement(s) Work Group - The Work Group's primary goal is to guide the development of WISHIN's Participation Agreement(s) for Phase II HIE operations.

The Work Plan also proposes a HIPAA Harmonization Legislation Plan to be carried out primarily by the full Committee. Key parts of that plan include providing input on statutory language, understanding plans to develop a coalition to help advance legislation, identifying the Committee's role as a convener of stakeholders, and recommending next steps to the WISHIN Board.

At this time, dates have not yet been set for the tasks. Dates will be provided over the next month as WISHIN completes its overall 2011 work plan.

HIPAA Harmonization Legislation Plan		
Notes:	This plan is a plan for the full Committee, and no work group is suggested at this time. However, the Committee may at any time create a work group to help implement the plan.	
	<u>Discrete Tasks and Outputs</u>	Dates
Task A	Recommend to the WISHIN Board that Wisconsin pursue legislation that would harmonize Wisconsin law with HIPAA regarding disclosures of information for purposes of treatment, payment, and operations.	March 22, 2011 (completed)
Task B	Receive the WISHIN Board's approval of the Policy Committee's recommendation.	April 28, 2011
Task C	Review and provide input on proposed statutory language to harmonize Wisconsin law with HIPAA regarding disclosures of information for purposes of treatment, payment, and operations.	
Task D	Gain an understanding of plans to develop a coalition of organizations to help pass the legislation, and identify ways that WISHIN and WISHIN Board and Committee members can help advance such legislation. Support from organizations represented on the WISHIN Board and Policy Committee will be key.	
Task E	Determine whether WISHIN should be a key convener of stakeholders to help the coalition of organizations pass the legislation.	
OUTPUT 1	<p>The Policy Committee will provide a summary of its input to the WISHIN Board, and make recommendations to the WISHIN Board on proposed next steps for WISHIN regarding the legislation.</p> <p>Next steps may include recommendations to endorse the legislation, oppose the legislation, endorse the legislation with modifications, join a coalition supporting and/or helping to pass the legislation, or to seek additional stakeholder input prior to making further recommendations.</p>	
Task F	Carry out the Board approved next steps to assist collaborative efforts to harmonize Wisconsin law with HIPAA regarding disclosures of information for purposes of treatment, payment, and operations.	