State Consumer Health Information and Policy Advisory Council:
Long Range Plan - Update and Implementation Status Report
2010

Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis
Agency for Health Care Administration
Long Range Plan Implementation Status Report
State Consumer Health Information and Policy Advisory Council

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Introduction

The 2004 Affordable Health Care for Floridians Act required that the Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) develop a transparent health care performance and web-based reporting system. The Act requires the State Consumer Health Information and Policy Advisory Council (Advisory Council) to make recommendations to the Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis (Florida Center) to accomplish the requirements of the legislation. The Act was codified in law in Section 408.05, Florida Statutes.

The Florida Center works with the Advisory Council to implement a long range plan to make available health care quality measures and financial data to allow consumers to compare health care services.

The Agency is required to update the plan and report annually on the status of its implementation as specified in §408.05(3) (k), F.S.

This document provides a 2010 update of the implementation of the long range plan and the goals established by the Agency in 2009. During the planning process in early 2011, the Advisory Council will review the established goals. The goals may be amended and/or additional goals adopted. Measurable objectives will be established for each of the adopted goals.
Background Information

The State Consumer Health Information and Policy Advisory Council (Advisory Council) was established to make recommendations to the Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis (Florida Center) to accomplish the requirements of §408.05, Florida Statutes. This statute directs the Agency to make available health care quality measures and financial data including but not limited to data on pharmaceuticals, physicians, health care facilities, health plans, and managed care entities. This section also directs the Agency to make available patient safety indicators, inpatient quality indicators, and performance outcome and patient charge data collected from health care facilities and to determine which conditions, procedures, health care quality measures, and patient charge data to disclose with input from the Advisory Council. The statute sets specific requirements for the publication of infection rates, mortality rates, readmission rates, and complication rates.

The statute requires that the Agency make available performance measures, benefit design, and premium cost data from health plans licensed pursuant to either Chapter 627 or Chapter 641, Florida Law. The Agency determines which health care quality measures and member and subscriber cost data to disclose, with input from the Advisory Council.

The Agency determines the method and format for public disclosure of data with input from the Advisory Council. The statute specifies that, at a minimum, the data shall be made available on the Agency's website, [www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov](http://www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov), in a manner that provides consumers the opportunity to conduct an interactive search that allows them to view and compare the information for specific providers. The website must include such additional information as is determined necessary to ensure the improvement of decision making among consumers and health care purchasers. The website must also include appropriate guidance on how to use the data and an explanation of why the data may vary from provider to provider.

With the assistance of the State Consumer Health Information and Policy Advisory Council, the Agency has developed and refined goals that address opportunities for expanding available consumer information related to hospitals, other facilities, physicians, and health plans. These goals enhance the Agency’s effectiveness in providing transparent health care price and quality information to the general public. *Transparency* refers to the clear communication of essential information that consumers need to make choices about their health care. In addition, the Agency establishes strategic goals for the promotion of health information technology and health information exchange, which is a related responsibility of the Florida Center that supports both transparency and Florida’s health care infrastructure.
The State Consumer Health Information and Policy Advisory Council

The mission of the Advisory Council is to advise the Florida Center relative to the dissemination of available health information as specified in statute. Activities related to the dissemination of health information include the identification, collection, standardization, sharing, and coordination of health-related data among federal, state, local, and private entities.

The Advisory Council makes recommendations for improvements in the health information collected and disseminated for purposes of public health, policy analysis, and transparency of consumer health care information. Section 408.05, F.S., provides that the Florida Center will collect, compile, coordinate, analyze, index, disseminate, and utilize both purposefully collected and existing health-related data and statistics.

The Advisory Council is also charged with advising the Florida Center on the development and implementation of a long range plan for making available health care quality measures and financial data that will allow consumers to compare health care services.

In addition, the Advisory Council advises the Florida Center in the development and implementation strategies for the adoption and use of electronic health records, including the development of an electronic health information network for the sharing of electronic health records among health care facilities, health care providers, and health insurers.

The Advisory Council meets quarterly, or at the request of the Chair, at the Agency offices in Tallahassee, Florida, or at other locations in the state. Meetings are noticed in the Florida Administrative Weekly and are open to the public in accordance with the Florida Sunshine Law.

The Advisory Council delegates special projects to its technical workgroups that meet on an as needed basis. The current workgroups are the Health Information Exchange Coordinating Committee (HIECC), the Health Information Exchange Legal Work Group (HIE Legal Work Group), and the Data Standards and Transparency Committee (DST).

The HIECC was created in December 2007 to advise the Agency in developing and implementing a strategy to establish a privacy-protected, secure, and integrated statewide network for the exchange of electronic health records. In 2009, Governor Crist designated the HIECC as the entity to advise the Agency on health information technology initiatives resulting from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Data Standards and Transparency Committee (DST) was created in April 2008 to review national standards for reporting and to make recommendations to the Advisory Council on defining a standard method of reporting and promoting information on facilities, physicians and health plans. The Director of the Florida Center is the Chair of the DST. This committee meets at the call of the Advisory Council.
The HIE Legal Work Group was reconstituted in 2009 on an on-going basis. The HIE Legal Work Group focuses on resolving legal and privacy issues related to Florida’s health information exchange initiatives.
Prior Accomplishments

The dissemination of all Florida Center data and health information is done through the consumer website FloridaHealthFinder.gov that launched in November 2005 (previously named FloridaCompareCare.gov).

In October 2009, the Agency and the Florida Center were recognized and honored with the National Association of Health Data Organizations’ 2009 Innovation in Data Dissemination Award. This national award was created to recognize the importance of effectively communicating health data to the public, and this year was awarded to FloridaHealthFinder.gov. This recognition and the website’s new enhancements bring new opportunities for promotion of health care transparency.

FloridaHealthFinder.gov enhances the decision-making of consumers and health care purchasers, and includes guidance on how to use the data and explains why measures can differ among providers. FloridaHealthFinder.gov includes the user-friendly A.D.A.M. Multimedia Health Encyclopedia and Symptom Navigator. The Symptom Navigator offers an interface which allows users to click on a picture of a human body, indicate where it hurts, and find out more about the symptom as well as links from A.D.A.M. to health care data on certain medical conditions and procedures, when available, such as hospitalizations and readmission rates in Florida, as well as the average length of stay and ranges of charges for those conditions or procedures. FloridaHealthFinder.gov features a state-of-the-art medical, multimedia encyclopedia, powered by A.D.A.M., that engages visitors with interactive tools to access comprehensive online health information. The multimedia encyclopedia gives visitors the opportunity to research a disease or condition, lookup a symptom, learn about a medical test, prepare for a surgery or procedure, and much more through articles, illustrations, and videos. The new high-definition videos include helpful demonstrations such as “how to use an asthma inhaler,” “tracking your blood pressure at home,” and others. The new multimedia encyclopedia also features Care Points, designed to help patients become more active participants in their health care, before and after visits to their physicians. Care Points provides patient education about discharge information, pre-operative information and instructions, self-care information and suggested questions for patients to ask their physician.

The information included on FloridaHealthFinder.gov was expanded in 2009 to include:

- A comparison tool for hospice providers based on the "Family Evaluation of Hospice Care" survey taken by families whose loved ones received hospice care. The survey looks at quality of care, including the satisfaction of the patient’s personal needs, respect for the patient, information provided to the family, the response to evening and weekend needs, and overall patient care.
- A more efficient and detailed Facility/Provider Locator tool. This tool allows the public to access all available data on 34 types of providers licensed and regulated by the Agency.
- More detailed Facility/Provider Profile Pages. These pages now include driving directions, links to both regulatory and complaint inspection reports conducted by
the Agency, specialty programs and services provided by the facility, bed types, specialty licenses, accreditations, and much more.

- A link to Health News and Announcements which is a reference page where users can access various informational features, such as the question and answer section “Asked and Answered” – a column of questions related to the use and content of FloridaHealthFinder.gov. This section of the website also features links and recaps of recent Agency related press releases, national health news articles, and alerts and updates on federal health care initiatives as well as archived items of each.

- A Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feed capability that allows users to access facility data and information on request without any restrictions. These feeds provide timely data updates in one prominent location. Making web feeds available from the site provides subscribers with a summary of the website's recently added content (for example, updates to the data, the latest news article, or forum posts).

The Florida Center contracts with I.S. Consulting, Inc. which utilizes methodologies from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and 3M to report risk adjusted hospital and ambulatory surgical center performance data on FloridaHealthFinder.gov. The facility discharge data collected by the Agency from Hospitals and Ambulatory Surgery Centers is used to calculate these measures. Published performance data include hospital readmissions from 3M and AHRQ measures such as readmission rates, mortality rates, complication rates, and hospital-acquired infection rates. Ambulatory surgical center performance data are risk adjusted utilizing the 3M Enhanced Ambulatory Patient Groups for reporting volume and charges for select procedures. FloridaHealthFinder.gov now includes health outcome and pricing information on over 150 conditions/procedures for hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers, including adults and pediatrics. The Florida Center publishes the definitions of all the data, descriptions of each condition and procedure, and an explanation about why the data may differ from provider to provider. In addition, users may view and compare information for specific facilities when utilizing the interactive search tool and map.

Other enhancements to the website include an online health care facility complaint form, provider inspection reports, links to the Florida Medicaid Health Information Network and the MyFlorida Health eBook, as well as additional research studies and reports.

Data collected on health plans can also be found on www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov. The health plan consumer search tool provides information on member satisfaction, quality of care, available health plans, and coverage areas that consumers can access through an interactive map. Consumers can conduct searches interactively and compare information among health plan providers. The health plan data has been enhanced with the addition of the Medicaid Reform Managed Care and Provider Service Network quality measures. The Advisory Council provides input on the method and format of the health plan data published on the website.
Information on financial performance and claims payment for Florida Health Plans is provided through a link to the Office of Insurance Regulation at the Florida Department of Financial Services. The site allows the user to view a set of financial indicators for health insurance plans. These indicators include enrollment, gross annual premium, and reported average days to pay claims. The Office of Insurance Regulation also provides a website that allows the user to view average health insurance premium rates (small group) for selected health insurance plans.

Additional financial information is available through a link to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. The site allows the user to view a set of financial indicators such as premiums earned, medical loss ratio, capital and surplus, assets and liabilities, and current ratio for a chosen health insurance company. The site also provides health plan complaint information.

A glossary is available online that describes the terms found on the website as well as information on how the data was collected and how it is being presented. Additionally, a link is provided to the National Committee on Quality Assurance Health Plan Report Card. This is an interactive tool designed to help consumers find a health plan. A link is also provided to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that allows consumers to compare Medicare health plans on costs, benefits, quality of care, and member satisfaction.

In June 2005, as a result of a collaborative effort by the Agency and the Office of the Attorney General, MyFloridaRx.com went live. This website was developed to help consumers shop for the lowest prescription drug prices in their area. The Florida Prescription Drug Price website provides pricing information for the most commonly used prescription drugs in Florida. The prices are the “usual and customary prices,” also known as retail prices. The prices listed represent the price that an uninsured consumer, with no discount or supplemental plan, would normally pay.

The Health Information Exchange Coordinating Committee (HIECC) is a workgroup to the Advisory Council. Governor Crist designated the HIECC as the coordinating body for Florida’s Health Information Technology adoption and Health Information Exchange (HIE) efforts as they relate to ARRA. As a result, the Florida Center has worked closely with the HIECC, and other stakeholders, to get input on the planning and design of HIE in Florida.

The HIECC reviewed Florida’s application and strategic and operational plans for the State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program, which was submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services October 15, 2009. Additional information about this application is posted at www.FHIN.net. The HIECC approved criteria for providing letters of recommendation from the State Medicaid Director for the Regional Extension Center application.
Long Range Planning Process

The Advisory Council met March 26, 2009, to review the goals that were originally established in June 2007. The identified goals were prioritized as the best use of Advisory Council resources. The Agency reviewed the recommendations and concurred that the following transparency goals be adopted by the Advisory Council. These goals will be reviewed annually and changed as needed:

1. Improve and streamline the Florida Center data collection process;
2. Improve the FloridaHealthFinder.gov website;
3. Promote the FloridaHealthFinder.gov website;
4. Display physician data on the FloridaHealthFinder.gov website, and;
5. Pursue statewide Health Information Exchange opportunities for the state consistent with national initiatives for Health Information Exchange funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

2010 Plans and Objectives

The Advisory Council met in March of 2010 to review the established goals and identify plans for 2010 as well as measurable benchmarks.

Goal: Improve and Streamline the Florida Center Data Collection Process

Plans for 2010: The first quarter of 2010 will kick off the collection of a new patient data set thanks to the adoption of new data collection rules in 2009. As facilities adjust to the new reporting requirements, the Florida Center is committed to maintaining the gains achieved in 2009 in the speed with which the data is processed. This means enhanced support for facilities coping with mastering new XML schemas and data formats and increased efficiency in communication. This also means proactively managing internal Agency systems and workflows.

In 2010, the Florida Center also plans to increase the speed and reliability of the collection of adverse incident data from hospitals, HMOs, and long-term care facilities. In 2010, the Florida Center will provide a new online reporting system for adverse incidents and annual reports that will continue to make adverse incident data available faster.
Measurable Objectives for 2010:

1. Complete and roll out new data collection web page.

2. Complete internal AHCA computer systems that will allow the Agency to process data submitted in accordance with the new data collection administrative rules 59B-9 and 59E-7 by April 1.

3. Complete the processing of first quarter 2010 data with little to no decrease in data currency (percentage of facilities completing their data submission by certification deadline).

4. Complete the roll-out of – and transition to – an updated data rules validator (referred to internally as the “auditor”) by the end of the year.

5. Finalize specific updates to the data collection rules and formally initiate rule updates by end of year.

Goal: Improve the FloridaHealthFinder.gov Website

Plans for 2010:
The Advisory Council approved recommendations to add pediatric indicators to the quality information displayed on the website. These indicators will be added in 2010 and will include accidental puncture or laceration, pediatric heart surgery mortality, pediatric heart surgery volume, post operative sepsis, and selected infections due to medical care. Pediatric readmission rates will also be added to the FloridaHealthFinder.gov website for all current pediatric conditions and procedures reporting, excluding cancer care.

The Advisory Council requested that the DST discuss the current method of displaying Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASC) with exemptions and provide a recommendation on whether or not to eliminate the exemptions or provide an alternative to the current reporting method. The group recommended that all existing data reported for ASCs be displayed including the number of quarters being reported. It was further recommended that the rule be amended to eliminate the exemption once the new data collection rule is in effect.

Measurable Objectives for 2010:

1. Continue to make the website more user friendly and enhance navigation

2. Add physician volume information on hip and knee replacements

3. Post performance measures within 8-10 weeks of final certification date
Goal: Promote the FloridaHealthFinder.gov Website

Plans for 2010:
The Florida Center and the Office of Communications are developing a strategic plan for FloridaHealthFinder.gov promotional efforts. The Florida Center will work with other state agencies to identify state, regional, and local agencies and organizations to promote the website. The Florida Center will provide tutorials to the identified parties so they may promote the website within their agency or organization and to their constituents. The Florida Center will also work with the Office of Communications to develop press releases as the website is updated or enhanced.

Measurable Objectives for 2010:
1. Increase number of visits from 1.35 million in 2009 to 1.75 million in 2010
2. Increase the number of visits to Compare Hospitals and Ambulatory Surgery Centers by 15%
3. Increase the number of visits to Compare Health Plans by 15%

Goal: Display Physician Data on FloridaHealthFinder.gov

Plans for 2010:
A pilot project will be initiated in 2010 to analyze one procedure that is common to most facilities and look at provider volume for this procedure across the state. The pilot will allow a quality assurance assessment of the data linking providers to procedures. The pilot will be conducted statewide. Information about the pilot and the results will be available on the website.

Measurable Objectives for 2010
1. Provide consumers with an easy access point to information on Hip and Knee Replacements.
2. Provide consumers with physician volume data for Hip and Knee Replacements to allow for comparison by December 2010.
Goal: Pursue statewide Health information Exchange opportunities for the State, consistent with national initiatives funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Plans for 2010:
The Advisory Council through the work of the Health Information Exchange Coordinating Committee (HIECC) will pursue statewide health information exchange opportunities for the State, consistent with national initiatives funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This will include assisting the Agency in the implementation of the State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program, advising on the development of a standard HIE participation agreement that will be used for the electronic exchange of health information, and participating in the development of the State Medicaid Health Information Technology Plan which will detail the implementation of the Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Payment Program as provided for by Section 4201 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Measurable Objectives for 2010:

1. Issue an Invitation to Negotiate and select the HIE Vendor to build the state health information exchange infrastructure for the “network of networks.” Select an HIE vendor by November 1, 2010.

2. Identify early adopters (e.g. hospital systems, provider networks, clinics, RHIOs, county health departments) to participate in health information exchange roll-out in 2011 and execute six to eight early adopter HIE Participation Agreements by January 1, 2011.

3. Increase the percent of pharmacies and percent of physicians within the state that are actively engaged in electronic prescribing as demonstrated by a 5% increase in the proportion of physicians within the state that are actively engaged in electronic prescribing and any increase in pharmacies.

4. Complete the State Medicaid Health Information Technology Plan that will provide a comprehensive plan for the participation of Florida Medicaid providers in health information exchange by year’s end to submit to CMS for approval in January 2011.
Barriers to Implementation

Section 408.05(3)(k), F.S., provides that the Agency shall identify any barriers to implementation, and recommendations of changes in the law that may be enacted by the Legislature to eliminate the barriers.

The Agency has explored the feasibility of collecting claims data to effectively report price information to consumers. Price data currently collected is limited to Medicaid claims which show the amount paid by the Medicaid program. The hospital inpatient, emergency department, and ambulatory surgery data includes charges - not paid amount. The pharmacy price data displayed on MyFloridaRx.com includes the usual and customary price as reported on the Medicaid claims. There is a fiscal barrier to implementing the collection of claims data from other insurers which would provide price information. There are legal barriers to collecting pricing information from hospitals and other facilities.

The Agency also continues to research ways to update and upgrade the Florida Center’s patient data collection and quality control systems, though funding is not currently available.
Appendix A: Quality Measures on FloridaHealthFinder.gov

FloridaHealthFinder.gov is a consumer-focused website that provides a clear, transparent view of performance data. The information can help consumers in choosing a health care facility or health plan that best serves their needs and can assist researchers studying the status of health care in Florida. The site provides the following quality measures:

Hospital Quality and Outcome Measures

**Overall Facility Performance:** Volume, Range of Charges, and Risk Adjusted Average Length of Stay

**Information on approximately 150 conditions and procedures (both adults and pediatrics):** Volume, Range of Charges, Risk Adjusted Average Length of Stay, and Potentially Preventable Readmissions (adults only, excluding deliveries and cancer related conditions/procedures except mastectomy)

**Inpatient Mortality Data for Adults (AHRQ IQIs):** Inpatient Quality Indicators (IQIs) developed by AHRQ reflect quality of care inside hospitals, including inpatient mortality for medical conditions and surgical procedures.

Mortality Rates for Selected Inpatient Procedures

1. Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair (IQI 11)
2. Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (IQI 12)
3. Craniotomy (IQI 13)
4. Esophageal Resection (IQI 18)
5. Hip Replacement (IQI 14)
6. Pancreatic Resection (IQI 9)

Mortality Rates for Selected Inpatient Conditions

1. Acute Myocardial Infarction (IQI 15)
2. Acute Myocardial Infarction, Without Transfer Case (IQI 32)
3. Acute Stroke (IQI 17)
4. Congestive Heart Failure (IQI 16)
5. Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage (IQI 18)
6. Hip Fracture (IQI 19)
7. Pneumonia (IQI 20)

**Inpatient Complication/Infection Data for Adults (AHRQ PSIs):** Patient Safety Indicators (PSIs) are developed by AHRQ to reflect quality of care inside hospitals and focus on potentially avoidable complications and iatrogenic events.
Patient Safety Indicator Measures:

1. Iatrogenic Pneumothorax (PSI 6)
2. Infections Due to Medical Care (PSI 7)
3. Postoperative Sepsis (PSI 13)
4. Decubitus Ulcer (PSI 3)
5. Postoperative Hip Fracture (PSI 8)
6. Postoperative Pulmonary Embolism or Deep Vein Thrombosis (PSI 12)

Ambulatory (Outpatient) Surgery Centers

Overall Facility Performance: Volume and Range of Charges

Information on approximately 55 procedures (both adults and pediatrics) – Volume and Range of Charges

Health Plan Quality Measures

Health Plan Quality of Care Indicators (HEDIS® Measures)

These are a set of measures that are used nationally to report the performance of health plans. Consumers can use this information to help them to decide which health plan to choose. Purchasers of health care use the information to compare health plans and determine the relative value of care offered by managed care health plans. The measures allow the public to understand how well health plans achieve results that matter, such as how effective and accessible is the care delivered. Data for these measures come from the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®). These measures are available only from managed care health plans, mainly HMOs.

HEDIS® Measures (2009 Measurement Year):

1. Asthma Medications for Long-Term Control
2. Breast Cancer Screening
3. Cervical Cancer Screening
4. Chlamydia Screening in Women
5. Diabetes Care: Lipid Profile Performed
6. Diabetes Care: Lipids Controlled
7. Diabetes Care: Dilated Eye Exam Performed
8. Diabetes Care: Kidney Disease Screening
9. Well-Child Visits, First 15 Months of Life
10. Well-Child Visits, Ages 3-6 Years
Health Plan Member Satisfaction Indicators (CAHPS® Measures):

Obtaining information on a member's satisfaction with a particular health plan is a key component in the decision of choosing a health plan. This information provides a general indication of how well the plan meets the members' expectations. Information on member satisfaction is obtained from the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®). Health care organizations, health care purchasers and consumers use CAHPS® results to (1) assess the patient-centeredness of care, (2) compare health plan performance, and (3) improve quality of care. Below are descriptions of the specific CAHPS® questions that are displayed on the website:

CAHPS® Measures (2009 Survey):

1. Overall Plan Satisfaction
2. Ease in Getting Needed Care
3. Ease in Getting Care Quickly
4. How Well Doctors Communicate
5. How Well Plan Processes Claims
6. Getting Help from Customer Service
7. Rate the Number of Doctors to Choose From
8. Recommend Health Plan to Family or Friends
9. Would You Select Your Current Plan Again?
Appendix B: Advisory Council

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Appointed by the Secretary, Agency for Health Care Administration

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Appointed by the Commissioner of Education

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Appointed by the Secretary, Agency for Health Care Administration

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Appointed by the Secretary, Agency for Health Care Administration

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**Appendix C: Health Information Exchange Coordinating Committee**

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Member of State Consumer Health Information and Policy Advisory Council

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Reginald Smith
Mayo Clinic
Representative of a hospital or clinic system utilizing an advanced electronic health records system

Kevin Kearns
Health Choice Networks

Representative of a federally qualified health center or other rural health organization utilizing electronic health records, telemedicine, or telehealth systems

Dr. Peter Kress
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Florida Academy of Family Physicians
Representative of physicians utilizing an advanced electronic health records system in his or her practice

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Florida Hospital Association
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Linda McMullen
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Representative of an association supporting electronic health record systems

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**Appendix D: Legal Work Group**

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State Consumer Health Information and Policy Advisory Council Liaison

**Appendix E: Data Standards and Transparency Committee**

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Representative of BayCare Health System

Representative of Florida Hospital Association

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