Final Call for Grant Submissions to Connect to DHIN

Delaware’s Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) is accepting applications from Delaware healthcare providers for one-time, health information exchange support mini-grants to adopt the full range of health information exchange tools offered by Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN).

Eligible mini-grant applicants include small primary care and other medical practices, behavioral health providers, accountable care organizations or Federally Qualified Health Centers that are not adopting the full range of health information exchange tools offered by DHIN.

All applicants must be licensed in Delaware and must provide a valid medical license where applicable. Applications will be evaluated by the Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC).

“This mini-grant opportunity will help primary care practices to serve their patients more effectively by enriching the electronic data they have available for each patient,” said Department of Health and Social Services Secretary Dr. Kara Odom Walker, a practicing family physician.

“The mini-grants also will help primary care practices to prepare for value-based care and improving health, which are critical to reducing the overall cost of health care across the spectrum.”

“DHIN is thrilled to work with the Department of Health and Social Services to bring data services to the healthcare providers of Delaware in support of treatment decisions at the point of care, as well as care coordination, patient engagement and data analytics,” said Dr. Jan Lee, DHIN CEO.

This mini-grant is an opportunity for practices to expand their use of data as a lever in preparation for new payment models, including total cost of care and risk-sharing arrangements by having connectivity with DHIN.

To achieve this outcome, these mini-grants will support investments in EMRs (Electronic Medical Records), proper technology infrastructure and DHIN-bundled services, with the ultimate goal of contributing data to and receiving data from DHIN.

The Delaware Health Care Commission is prepared to award up to 25 applicants in varying amounts, with the maximum award total of $8,000, to assist practices with start-up costs. Funding is being made available through the Department of Health and Social Services’ Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

The application, available here, is due no later than Nov. 30, 2019. Final notifications of award will be sent by Dec. 15, 2019. All questions and final applications must be submitted by email to DHCC@delaware.gov.
Taking – and Talking - HIE on the Road

Congratulations to DHIN Chief Technology Officer Jeff Reger and Chief Operating Officer Randy Farmer, who joined other healthcare executives from across the country in roundtable discussions at the last month’s Becker’s Hospital Review Health IT & Revenue Cycle Management conference in Chicago.

Jeff and Randy’s participation in the “Addressing High Deductible Patient Plans, Consumerism and the Evolving Role of Patients Becoming Payers” and “Key Improvements and Biggest Challenges in the Revenue Cycle” roundtables gave DHIN an opportunity to highlight its growing analytics work and share revenue-generating opportunities that have developed from the changing healthcare data landscape.

Closer to home, Randy Farmer also joined the Strategic Health Information Exchange Collaborative (SHIEC) for its annual Hill Day in Washington, DC on September 25 and 26th. Attendees from SHIECE member organizations met with House and Senate staff to advocate on behalf of health information exchanges nationwide.

Latest from Leg Hall…

Earlier this year, DHIN went before the General Assembly’s Joint Legislative Oversight & Sunset Committee (JLOSC) to report on the status of the Health Care Claims Database (HCCD). With the support of 2018’s Senate Bill 236, which earmarked $2 million for the HCCD’s implementation, DHIN and its partners developed and launched the database; the first of its kind with the ability to marry clinical and claims data.

The development of a robust and transparent claims database has been identified as a critical step in controlling healthcare costs in Delaware, and DHIN is pleased to play a role in helping to better understand and ultimately lower healthcare costs in the First State.

Read the Committee’s final report and recommendations here.

Read the history of the HCCD here.

Over the next few months, DHIN will continue to work with the Committee’s task force to implement the JLOSC recommendations, with a report to Governor Carney due in January.
Welcome Aboard!

The DHIN team is pleased to welcome its three newest team members:

Melissa Earley joined DHIN earlier this month as Service and Projects Operation Analyst, responsible for supporting organization-wide priorities. She brings a wealth of health-care IT experience to the group, and we’re eager to put her to work!

Earlier this fall, DHIN’s Network Operations team grew with the addition of Kevan Browne as a Network & Operations Systems Analyst. With a strong project management background, including as an instructor for a career readiness program for veterans, Kevan is a great asset to the organization.

Dianna Hicks, already known to several at DHIN from her previous role with a mobile applications provider, also joined our team full-team this fall. As a project manager, Dianna has jumped in to work on several key initiatives, and we’re thrilled to have her working with us again!

Getting in Touch

DHIN Business Relationship Managers

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Hospitals: Christiana Care and Union (and any practices related to the hospitals)
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