

**Cabinet for Health and Family Services  
Office of Health Policy  
Data Advisory Subcommittee  
Wednesday, March 5, 2008  
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM  
Salato Wildlife Education Center**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

James Berton  
King's Daughters Medical

Ron Crouch  
University of Louisville  
Data Center

Carol Ireson  
UK College of Public  
Health

Louis Kurtz  
KY Dept for Mental Health  
and Mental Retardation

John Lewis, MD  
Health Care Excel

Tim Marcum  
Baptist Hospital East

George Robertson  
Office of Vital Statistics

Chuck Warnick  
Kentucky Hospital  
Association

Ben Yandell  
Norton Healthcare

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Sherill Cronin, Ph.D.  
Bellarmine University Center

Paul Sinkhorn  
Jewish Hospital

**STAFF:**

CHFS, Department for Public Health  
Doug Thoroughman

CHFS, Office of Health Policy  
Sheena Lewis                      Allison Martinez  
Tricia Okeson                      Chandra Venettozzi

Beth Morris

CHFS, Office of the Undersecretary for Health  
Charles Kendell

**GUESTS:**

Tom James, III, MD, Humana  
Martha Riddell, DrPH, University of Kentucky

**CALL TO ORDER**

Charlie Kendell called the meeting to order at the Salato Wildlife Center, Frankfort.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Charlie welcomed the committee and guests.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the meeting of November 1, 2007, were approved with the following revisions:

(Page 3) He also stated that [up to] 60% of ~~all post-op sepsis is present on admission~~  
[cases identified as having post-op sepsis do not actually have post-op sepsis.]

~~Melissa Adkisson asked if, infections notwithstanding, it is the consensus that  
the data is not good enough to accurately report. Ben replied that he could say in  
complete confidence that they are not. That is not the same, however, in the case  
of obstetric trauma. This is due to the aggressiveness in the accuracy of coding.~~

### **PRESENTATION ON HUMANA'S TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE**

Charlie introduced Dr. Tom James from the Humana Strategic Advisory Group. Dr. James provided an overview of where Humana is today in regard to health care transparency and where it will be going. Humana has been working with Business Healthcare Group of Southeast Wisconsin. Employers have formed a collaborative effort, chosen Humana as its insurer, and dictated to them what they wanted to present to their employees. Humana's transparency tools represent information on hospitals, ambulatory facilities and physicians.

Ben Yandell stated that despite the goal of providing information to consumers, they are not the only audience. As Dr. James pointed out in his presentation, consumers do not go to the web to get their information but to their physician. He said that a lot of this work is based on the false assumption that those in health care have the information but are not sharing it.

Ben stated that in order to talk about value, you also have to talk about price.

### **STAFF CHANGES**

Charlie announced that since the last meeting, there have been staff changes that have occurred. Melissa Adkisson is no longer with the Office of Health Policy. She left on her own accord and is now employed by Carena, a company out of Seattle opening an office in Louisville. Chris Corbin has also left state government and is employed by Humana. Tricia Okeson is still employed by the Office and Health Policy, which is still attached to the Secretary's office, and Charlie is working with Dr. William Hacker, Commissioner of Public Health. There are no plans or discussions regarding any reorganization at this point. He stated that whatever changes may occur would occur after the legislative session. Charlie has had meetings with the new Secretary for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Secretary Janie Miller. Secretary Miller formerly served as the Commissioner for

the Department of Insurance and was employed by Medicaid. She was also employed by ARH during the time when Kentucky was attempting to get Medicaid Managed Care to all parts of the state. Former Representative Steve Nunn is now the Deputy Secretary for the Cabinet.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

### **a. STATUS OF HB 44**

HB 44 is the same language that was contained in the budget bill with our current transparency legislation. The existing transparency initiative was passed in the last budget bill, which will expire July 2008. The Health Data Advisory Committee is mentioned on page 3 of 12, as well as the 837 format on page 6 of HB 44. This has passed the House and was sent to Senate Health and Welfare on February 1.

### **b. SB 183**

SB 183 is legislation dealing with MRSA and multi-drug resistant organism reporting. It has been opposed by the Cabinet and the Hospital Association. Charlie stated that he brought this to the attention of the Committee to let them know that our data law is referenced on page 4. The legislation asks for facility's rate of infections and the rate of infections for the community. It also requires all health care facilities to implement infection control prevention programs within 90 days of the effective date. Charlie stated that this will be an impossible task to collect. Physicians are not culturing this in their office and that makes it impossible to collect a community rate. It makes no mention of the voluntary efforts being made through CDC and other organizations.

Dr. John Lewis informed that Health Care Excel's new contract will have a focus on MRSA and stated that they might seek to make it reportable. Speaking on Dr. Kraig Humbaugh's behalf, Doug Thoroughman stated the Cabinet is not sure that it should be reportable. He stated that local health departments would struggle with the quantity of data that they would have to deal with. It is also difficult to tell the difference between hospital-acquired and community acquired MRSA.

Doug stated that it would certainly be useful to have more information on not only MRSA, but others as well. In recent years, there have been significant outbreaks in different areas because of the inter-relationship between hospitals and patients being transferred to long-term care facilities or rehabilitation facilities and infections being spread in that way. It helps to know that the resistance patterns in order to treat the infection more aggressively.

### **DAC MEMBERSHIP**

Charlie stated that anytime there is a change in administration, one of the first routine tasks is to request a list of all boards and commissions, particularly those appointed by the Governor and/or the Secretary. In compliance with this request, it has become evident that the membership terms of this subcommittee have lapsed. Charlie asked Tricia who is no longer part of the subcommittee. Larry Bone, who represented a consumer payor, was with the Four Rivers Health Care in Western Kentucky. That agency is no longer in operation and we have been unable to reach him for some time. Dr. Wayne Higgins has retired from Western Kentucky University. Charlie stated that he would very much like to have a representative from WKU on the subcommittee. Joyce Robl is no longer with the Department for Public Health and a replacement will be needed from that office. Biographical forms were distributed and Charlie requested that those interested in continuing to serve complete the forms and return them to us in order for us to process the administrative order. He also suggested that if members knew of any other individuals that might be a value to this group, send those names to him. The nature of the work is similar to what it has always been but is beginning to shift as the public discovers data, personal information, and the exchange of electronic health information. It is still a statutory requirement for this group to provide guidance on data matters to the Cabinet. Data issues will continue to arise where a good body of expertise is required.

### **INTERSTATE DATA SHARING AGREEMENT**

Tricia mentioned that West Virginia has approached us about sharing data. At some point in the past, there was an agreement to share data though it is not known if any data was actually exchanged. Missy Adkisson was approached regarding resurrecting the agreement before she left state government and the contact information was lost when her e-mail account was deleted. We are currently waiting for someone to contact us again. Tricia requested input on sharing data with a state that does not use COMPData and sharing more information than what is included in the public use datasets. Chuck Warnick responded that West Virginia has recently contracted with a certain company to help them re-establish and streamline to better collect data from hospitals. He stated that KHA currently has a reciprocity agreement with the Illinois Hospital Association, the Indiana Hospital Association, and the Tennessee Hospital Association. KHA does not have information from the Ohio Hospital Association because they do not want to share their data. Information for Missouri is not available; however, they are changing and opening up to sharing with other hospital associations. KHA's position has been to share information field for field and if another association is willing to share their information, KHA will share theirs. Should they restrict their data, KHA will restrict what they share, as well. Charlie asked Chuck to keep the group posted on this issue.

### **PROCUREMENT OF ED DATA UPDATE**

Tricia stated that the timing of the grant payments versus when the data will be collected has become an issue with the ED data collection. Kentucky would have paid for a dataset and that dataset will not be available before the grant is over. Chuck, Tricia, and Chandra Venettozzi will be going to Transportation this afternoon to talk with them about getting the grant directly awarded to KHA so we can move forward with it. The collection of the data began on January 1.

### **NUMBER OF DAC MEETINGS**

Charlie proposed only having two more meetings spaced out in order to take advantage of events that may occur, such as before or after the summit that KHA is holding on MRSA. There also may be some post-legislative follow-up that the Committee may need to do, in which case we may meet in June or July.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

A new meeting date will not be set in order for events to dictate when we need to meet again.

### **COMMENTS**

Dr. Lewis distributed a copy of an article from the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation regarding health record banking. The article, titled “Improving Health Care: Why a Dose of IT May Be Just What the Doctor Ordered”, can be found at <http://www.itif.org/files/HealthIT.pdf>. Charlie stated that Dr. Hacker is on several national committees representing state and territorial health officers on e-Health as well as privacy and has made several presentations.

Ron Crouch stated that in the next 43 years, 10% of world growth will be due to fertility, population under 25 years of age. Two-thirds of all growth projected in the UN will be over age 45. Growth to the world is not due to fertility but longevity.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.