

**MSSNY Health Information Technology Committee**  
**June 1, 2018**

Donald Moore, MD, Chair  
Brian Blaufeux, MD  
Deepak Buch, MD  
Philip Gioia, MD  
John Maese, MD  
Jef Sneider, MD  
Renee Solomon, MD  
William Zurhellen, MD

Phil Schuh, MSSNY staff  
Moe Auster, MSSNY staff

The meeting commenced at 7:30 AM.

The minutes of the March 9, 2018 HIT Committee meeting were approved

**HIT SYMPOSIUM**

Dr. Moore gave a report about the HIT Symposium organized by the Kings County Medical Society that took place in Brooklyn Borough Hall on Saturday April 28 with the support of MLMIC and MSSNY. He noted that 187 registered for the event, and there were 127 attendees. He noted that the attendees and sponsors of the event also spoke very highly about it. With the significant amount of photos and videos from the program, Dr. Moore noted that he is applying for the forum to be used as enduring material for CME purposes. He also noted a comment from Dr. Kolodner, one of the presenters, who analogized adoption of HIT to the development of an automobile noting that we are not quite at the level of a Model T but are getting close. Dr. Moore also noted the importance of the close collaboration between attorneys and physicians.

There was universal acclaim for Dr. Moore for his efforts in organizing this very successful program.

**MEDICAID MEANINGFUL USE PROGRAM**

The Committee heard a presentation from Sarah Hoffman and Kristina Zemeta from the NYS Department of Health regarding its efforts to bring physicians back into the Medicaid Meaningful Use program who had previously participated but had dropped participation.

Ms. Hoffman noted some of the challenges of EHR that may have led to a significant drop in participation, including lack of interoperability and constant changes by CMS.

Ms. Zemeta articulated specific improvements to the program. These include enabling electronic signatures instead of the current "print, sign and mail" requirements, as well as enhancing educational material to make it easier for physicians to comply with security risk analysis requirements. She also noted efforts to more strategically market the program to physicians.

Mr. Auster noted concerns some physicians had about timeframes for reimbursement, noting that there had been several physician who had been forced to wait many months or even a year for reimbursement. DOH staff reiterated their efforts to include more automation, as well as a goal to have payments within 90 days of submission of a reimbursement request.

Dr. Buch asked about efforts to assure that there was greater synchronization between the reporting requirements for DSRIP, Medicaid managed care and the Medicare MIPS program. Dr. Sneider asked about whether the EHR vendors have been contacted to work with physicians to achieve this, given the time challenges many physicians face in treating patients. Dr. Moore urged the State to assure that they consult with MSSNY prior to implementing initiatives so that problems can be addressed up front.

MSSNY will work with DOH to help promote the improvements to this program through its many communication vehicles, including e-news and Twitter.

### **NYeC DEIP PROGRAM**

Next, the Committee heard a presentation from Elizabeth Amato from the New York e-Health Collaborative. Mr. Auster noted the presentation was an outgrowth of a resolution from MSSNY's House of Delegates that called upon MSSNY to support and to urge physicians to provide data to their local Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs) but also highlighted the concerns with the cost for physicians to connect to the local RHIOs. After speaking with physicians, MSSNY shared with NYeC officials examples of some of the significant charges to connect to a RHIO, in response to which NYeC wanted physicians to be aware of programs to assist them.

Ms. Amato gave a description of the Data Exchange Incentive Program (DEIP) which is designed to provide physicians and other prescribers with \$13,000 to help connect to their local RHIOs. The first step is for a physician to sign up to become a participant in their local RHIO, in which they would be eligible for \$2,000. The next step is to work with their EHR vendor to develop a "pipeline" for transmitting information bi-directionally, which will then make the physician eligible for another \$11,000. In addition to physicians, nursing homes, home care agencies, hospices, and behavioral health providers are eligible.

Dr. Sneider asked about whether this information has been shared with vendors to share with physicians. He also asked about if there was a September 30 deadline. Ms. Amato noted that federal funding (they receive \$3 million per year) did expire on September 30, but that it was likely that CMS would renew the grant for another federal fiscal year.

Dr. Buch asked about the challenges of complying with Meaningful Use requirements. Dr. Moore noted his possible interest in participation in the program, and his conversations with the leader of HealthIx (the NYC and Long Island RHIO) at the April 28 Symposium.

Again, it was noted that MSSNY would work with NYeC to help promote this program to physicians through its various communication channels, including e-news and Twitter.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Moore suggested that the next meeting of the HIT Committee take place in September.

The meeting ended at 8:30 AM.