Several items to let you all know of! We have a tremendous honor to be chosen as one of four states to work closely with USDA to give hospitals access to capital for HIT related expenses. Mary has outlined that program below. Also, Kansas will be represented at a special meeting that AHA is holding with CMS and ONC to talk about issues related to meeting Meaningful Use. Larry Van Der Wege, Lindsborg and I have been invited to attend this small group discussion. Thanks to Larry for taking time away to do this!

A quick note that the hospital staff education materials we developed to help you train your line staff about health information exchange and Kansas laws has been updated to include a script which you can use in training. You can get those tools on our website.

**USDA/HHS Health IT Pilot Initiative:** Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation is pleased to announce that Kansas has been selected as a pilot state to help streamline the USDA application process for HIT low cost loans and grants for eligible hospitals. Interested hospitals should contact Mary Matzke **before May 15th** for details about the participation criteria. Interested parties can view a webinar on **Tuesday, June 4th at noon** to learn about the new USDA/HHS funding initiative that hopes to make it easier for rural Kansas hospitals to access financial resources to meet Meaningful Use. They will then come together for meetings on **June 19th and 20th** in Wichita which will be focused on developing their application for funding. While the pilot’s goal is to get more of our Kansas hospitals to Meaningful Use, the funding is available for any type of health information technology, not just EHR specific technology.

At the June meeting, USDA and ONC staff will be onsite to provide training and support. The first day will include an overview of available USDA programs and funding options. Access by Webinar will also be available to allow remote participation of board members, county commissioners and other interested health care leaders. The second day of the conference, June 20th, is an “Application Party” where teams from hospitals complete their USDA applications assisted by certified rural development staff. More details and registration information will be forthcoming.
Critical Access and rural hospitals needing assistance with meeting Meaningful Use Stage 1 are the pilot’s first priority, followed by those who require significant upgrades in software and infrastructure to maintain Stage 1 and/or meet Stage 2 including: switching to new EHR vendors and adding costly components. Telehealth, PACs imaging and storage are also eligible types of projects. Rural Health Clinics may also qualify. For more questions, visit the Rural Development website.

Key dates:
June 4, 2013, noon to 1:30 – Webinar for Interested Persons
- Introduction to project
- Preparation needed for the USDA application
June 19, 2013, 2:30 – 4:00 – In person meeting, Wichita and (Webinar for community leaders)
- Overview of funding opportunities
- Kansas success stories
June 20, 2013, 8:30 – 4:00 – In person meeting, Wichita
- Introduction of hospital cost/need considerations
- Application development and technical assistance (Application Party)
- Discussion of process improvement

Registration closes May 15th, 2013 @ 5 PM.

Contact Mary Matzke 785-249-3045 if you are interested in being part of this exciting opportunity or if you have questions about the project.

**Medicaid Incentives:** Kansas has recently submitted an update to their state plan and is in the process of developing an additional way to support Kansas hospitals as they move to EHRs and HIE. To date, 40 Kansas hospitals have received a total of $23.5 million in Medicaid Incentive funds. KDHE has received permission to subsidize hospital participation fees by providing discounts for Medicaid Incentive eligible hospitals who participate in an approved HIO. How it would work is still in planning stages. Right now, unfortunately, these subsidies or discounts are only available for hospitals who qualify for the Medicaid Incentive. KHA is working with KDHE to see if there are strategies that would include more hospitals in the state. We will keep you posted.

**Privacy and Security Education and Policies:** Don’t forget to register for our Health Information Privacy and Security Conference at the Wichita Hyatt on May 21, 2013. Those of you who have been anxiously awaiting our sample hospital policies, this is it! Our presenter is Martie Ross, principal, Pershing Yoakley & Associates, PC, along with health information exchange subject-matter experts and hospital colleagues. Topics include Kansas laws regarding health information privacy and health information exchange; detailed discussion of 2013 revisions to the HIPAA Privacy Rule; updates from Health Information Organizations on privacy and security issues; and sharing your key HIE policies with peers and industry experts for group “mark-up” activity. Click here for the brochure or you can register on line.

**Breach Update:** Thanks to our security expert Tom Walsh for some updates on breaches:
Theft continues to be the primary reason given for a breach with laptops the greatest target.

In this first quarter of 2013, however, there were 11 network servers taken or hacked which may be the largest number in a single quarter. Hacking was up overall as well with seven incidents in this first quarter of 2013.

46 new incidents this quarter

Total of 571 reported breaches which affected more than 500 patients

21,744,113 patients - total affected by breaches since September 2009

22% of all reported breaches (affecting over 500 patients) were caused by Business Associates (125 reported breaches affecting 12,234,361 patients which is 56% of all patients affected by breaches)

Melissa

Melissa Hungerford
Kansas Hospital Association
Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation
215 S.E. Eighth Ave.
Topeka, KS  66603-3906
(785) 233-7436
(785)230-1375 Cell
www.kha-net.org
mhungerford@kha-net.org