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Dates to Remember

- NMN Board
Meeting..... Dec. 11
- INK Call.....Dec. 11
- Christmas
Day.....Dec. 25



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Altenbernd retires from MHSI...

Joan Altenbernd was with MHSI for 36 years, starting as a community health intern before working her way up to Executive Director. She served on numerous committees and organization boards, most recently for Central MN Area Health Education Center and Health Outreach Partners. Joan's focus was always on providing excellent service to and improving the lives of migrant and seasonal farmworkers throughout MHSI's service area. In her retirement, Joan plans to help with her husband's small business, pass time with friends and family, and spend time outdoors, especially in the garden. Congratulations Joan! You will be missed!



Joan and NMN Project Director, Jackie Moen during Joan's retirement party.



Joan receiving a crystal leadership award from Rohonda Degulau of MNACHC.

Message from the Director.....

Jackie Moen

In November we sponsored the EHR-MU Conference in Duluth, attended by over 34 people from around the Midwest. The two-day event featured Patient Portal demonstrations,

Meaningful Use discussions around Stage one and Stage two requirements, EHR workflow demos for Patient Centered Medical Home programs, Quality Improvement Updates, and plans for future Network activities.

The conference's "EHR Tips and Tales" segment was a crowd favorite, as usual! MHSI's Kristi Halvorson discussed their telemedicine project in partnership with Mayo Clinic. SMC registered nurse Amy Schmidt captured attention with a delightful presentation about implementing the EKG process in house. EHR Coordinator, Tanya Bourdeau, with LSCHC told us about the evolution of their in-house lab form. Nancy Mault and Linda Buckingham with SRHS shared the story of building their Patient Centered Medical Home and the positive patient responses. Susan Bauer with CHP of Illinois updated the group about their EHR Implementation journey.

During November we also bid "farewell" to retiring MHSI Executive Director, Joan Altenbernd. Congratulations, Joan, on a wonderful career leading MHSI! We wish you the best in retirement and suspect you won't let much grass grow under your feet.

We are wrapping up a number of HIT projects currently, including the EHR Implementation for CHP of Illinois, an interface between Centricity and Dentrix for LSCHC, and a health information exchange initiative to enable all members to share the Continuity of Care Document (CCD) with other organizations. It promises to be an exciting end to 2012!



Focusing on the patient experience

By Stuart Long, Capsule Tech Inc.

We hear so much about EMRs and their role in meeting meaningful-use requirements; but it's important to note that the main goal of any technology in the hospital setting, including the EMR, is to improve outcomes and the patient experience. Medical device connectivity is no different. It plays a pivotal supporting role in making EMRs valuable and, ultimately, in improving time at the bedside, patient care and outcomes. Measuring "value" can sometimes be challenging, as it means different things to different people or departments. Ultimately for hospitals, it comes down to whether or not the technology is improving the patient experience.

The EMR cannot be all things to all people; and to be fair, it wasn't designed to be. There are a number of technologies that need to be in place to more effectively manage the various clinical and administrative functions that improve patient experience. To steal an analogy my colleague recently used, asking the EMR alone to improve patient care is like asking a car engine to run without spark plugs, fuel or oil that support the function of the engine. EMRs require the same support from technologies, such as medical device connectivity, CPOE and others to provide its intended value.

As hospitals strive for EMR adoption, the tools and the foresight into clinician workflow are top priorities. Medical device integration (MDI) is one tool that helps lessen the adjustment for clinicians and adds value rather than adding steps to the daily workflow. It provides hospitals and clinicians with the means to reduce charting time by sending data directly from devices to the EMR and, therefore, eliminating the manual charting process and, in turn, eliminating charting errors, duplication and workarounds. It can even enable near-real-time data delivery to the EMR to improve decision making by care-management staff.

Benefits such as these are what truly enable the EMR to improve the patient experience. But how do hospitals get to this point? The only way to really see the benefits of the EMR from the outset is to develop a strategic plan that begins with an enterprise strategy and evaluates not only how the EMR will improve efficiency within the hospital, but how clinical staff and patients are affected by the technology. (to continue reading visit www.healthmgttech.com)



Congratulations!!



Kristi Halvarson has been named Executive Director at MHSI. Kristi graduated from Minnesota State University Moorhead with majors in Biology and Spanish and earned her Master in Health Care Administration from Des Moines University. She has been employed with MHSI since 2005, starting as a seasonal bilingual research assistant and holding several positions in that time. Kristi looks forward to the challenges leading such a great organization and is excited for her new role. Outside of work, Kristi enjoys sports, spending time with friends and family, and homebrewing beer with her new husband.



Introducing
Gavyn Warren Widger Doesken

October 14, 2012 at 3:42pm

8 pounds, 14.7 ounces and 20.8 inches

Proud parents,

Shane & Sunnah Doesken

NMN Member Clinics

Migrant Health Service, Inc.

www.migranthealthservice.org

Moorhead	218-236-6502
Grafton	701-352-4565
Rochester	507-529-0503
Willmar	320-214-7286

Sawtooth Mountain Clinic

www.sawtoothmountainclinci.org

Grand Marais	218-387-2330
Grand Portage	218-475-2235
Tofte	218-663-7263

Cook Area Health Services dba

Scenic Rivers Health Services

www.scenicrivershealthservices.org

All SRHS Clinics can be reached Toll Free at 877-541-2817

Bigfork, Big Falls, Cook, Floodwood and Northome

Lake Superior Community

Health Center

www.ls chc.org

Duluth	218-722-1497
Superior	715-392-1955

Community Health Partnership

of Illinois

www.chpofil.org

Aurora	630-859-0015
Hoopeston	217-283-5523
Kankakee	815-932-6045
Mendota	815-539-6124
Rantoul	217-893-3052
Woodstock	815-337-9640
Admin. Office	312-795-000

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