

“Harmony in Health Care” was the rhythm and soul of the first annual Southern Chapters Regional Conference held in Shreveport, Louisiana May 14th and 15th 2009. The Louisiana, Mississippi, Dallas/Fort Worth and South Central Texas chapters joined forces to bring a spectacular informative conference to the region.

The conference began with a *sonata* of workshops that included a CPHIMS Workshop, a RHIO workshop, and a Nursing Informatics Workshop. Presentations included “On the HIE Road”, by keynote speaker Laura Kolkman, Chair HIMSS HIE Steering Committee. Louisiana Rural Hospital Coalition was represented by Jamie Welch, CPEHR, CPHIT, CPHIE, CIO delivering a presentation called, “Louisiana through a federated data model HIE.” Rounding out the presentations was a panel of experts that spoke on RHIO’s. The notable speakers were Thomas F. Shubnell Ph.D, FHIMSS (Cardinal Consulting, Inc.) Hank Fanberg (CHRISTUS HEALTH) and Dr. Lynn Witherspoon (Ochsner Clinic Foundation). Connectivity is here and may the health information exchange begin!

The Nursing Informatics workshop included the results of the *HIMSS 2009 Informatics Nurse Impact Study* delivered by Joyce Sensmeier, MS, RN,BC, CPHIMS, FHIMSS, HIMSS VP Informatics. She explained that we must bridge the gap of information technology and patient care by building an alliance for nursing informatics. According to the survey, informatics nurses with clinical systems have the top impact on patient safety, workflow, and user acceptance! The top applications for HIT are CPOE, eRX, and EHR.

On key with our theme, Patricia Bush RN M.S., FACHE presented “*Directing the Symphony: Managing Data for Internal and External Reporting.*” Complete with music and “special effects, she shared six principles and contrasts of data management in addition to key processes on data management. Ms. Bush recommended a business structure for data management programs, and then further explained the data life cycle.

The nursing panel of distinguished health leaders and educators shared each of their advancements in nursing informatics. Audience participation hit a high note and all agreed with a hearty chorus that the health data language needs to be standardized and consistent. The panel speakers were Janis Coates, RN, MBA, CPHIMS (St. Dominic’s), Carol Owens BSN, MSN and Donna Hood MSN, RNC (La Tech University) and Patricia Bush RN M.S., FACHE (Perot Systems)

The conference then opened with a key note address by Robin Raiford, RN-BC, CPHIMS, FHIMSS-*Pushing a nation forward....Lights, Camera, OBAMA!* She exclaimed transformation is underway and spoke on the “drivers of Health IT” such as rising health care costs, substantial benefits for consumers & economy, administration leadership on HIT adoption, and strong endorsement from industry/commercial/ leaders. She further explained that there is increasing pressure for quality such as PQRI with CMS. Later, she discussed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and reported that providers would have to meet criteria such as meaningful use of EHR.

The attendee’s could pick from a Blue Grass Track or a Country Track to continue their harmony in Healthcare.

Track one of the Blue Grass track was presented by Jan Fuller, MBA, RHIA (La Tech University). *The Electronic Health Record and it's Impact on Coding* was her topic! She elaborated on Computer Assisted Coding, by identifying the types of CAC software, benefits of CAC (e.g. increased coding consistency) and then she concluded with an overview of ICD-10! Wow! We better get ready! It will be here before we know it! Track two of the Blue Grass was standing room only as Terry Evans, MBA, CPHIMS, FHIMSS, CIO Thibodaux Regional Medical Center presented *Managing Remote Connectivity During and After a Disaster*. He provided considerations for developing a Continuity Plan from “recovery time objectives” to “skill sets and availability of staff.” He continued with the advantages of the J- site solution. The attendee’s were intrigued with the “Tales of Two Hurricanes” and the milestone improvements post the Katrina experience!

As the day went on, the crescendo continued with the Country Track! Lets tip our hats partners to Nick Bovino for his presentation on *Consortium for Health Transformation-Funding, Deployment, and the Meaningful Use of Certified EHR's* and Pawan Goyal M.D. PMP, FHIMSS, CPHIMS of the Veterans Health Administration for *Where do I Start? Nightmares of IT Requirements Elicitation*. Mr. Bovino focused on the EHR Roadmap, and explained the five critical components necessary for nationwide interoperable health information. He also included the projected requirements for *meaningful use of EHR*. Dr. Goyal elaborated on why projects fail and identified poor requirements as a major contributor to failure. “Requirements” fulfilled will thrust your EHR/HIT project into success!

Keeping the beat on *Meaningful use of EHR's* Barbara Hobbs, Manager, Electronic Health Records and Interoperability Initiatives, MediTech, gave a resounding key note address to further explain the ARRA initiative!

Interludes were highlighted with exceptional HIT vendors and their exemplary displays. We thank them for their participation, education, and value-added products that assist us to meet standards, objectives, and ultimately quality improvement of patient care.

What could not be said in words was said in music as we shared the evening network event near and around the vendors tables! The Louisiana Cajuns led a robust lively music parade throughout the event area, encouraging attendee participation with whisks, spoons and Cajun music instruments- ahhhh eeeeeee! Everyone passed a good time!

Day two started with the Soul Track and was followed by the Jazz Track.

Leading off was the key note speaker Hank Fanberg, Technology Advisor for CHRISTUS HEALTH. He presented: *The Future of Care: Data Liquidity, Virtual Care and Value*. He got the audience’s quick attention by asking a few questions. For example, he asked, “Who owns the IP rights to your DNA?” and “ Will your next surgeon be a robot?” He continued with “Are we asking the right questions concerning Health Care Reform” and there were many thought provoking follow-up questions to that! He shared many ways on how technology was improving health care.

Music for the Soul began with *Data Mining: Finding Nuggets in Mountains of Healthcare Data* by Prerna Sethi, PhD, La Tech University. Data Mining was defined as she also described the methodology for mining. Two main tasks of Data Mining are Predictive data mining (forecasting and classifying) and Descriptive data mining (clustering and association) Data mining supports many initiatives to enhance quality of care. Joining in on the Soul track was Kathleen Catalano, RN, JD, FHIMSS in her presentation of *RAC: The Why's, The Wherefores, The Update!* Mrs. Catalano reviewed the legal basis for RAC and explained the RAC Demonstration Project with the results. She continued to explain the overpayment focus and the main causes of underpayment. Prepare Now! Recovery Audit Contractors will be in all states no later than January 1, 2010! Ask questions!

Jazzing it up for the afternoon was Claudia Blackburn MBA, FACMPE, CPHIMS, PMP, Director, Project Management Office at FMOLHS IS Project Management office and Nani Sadowski-Alvarez, PMP, CSC Consulting in their *duet* presentation of *S.M.A.R.T. IT Project Management Yields Measurable Success*. They defined what a Project Management Office is and what the main functions are. Project Life Cycle Steps revealed success with Initiation, Planning, Execution & Control, and finally Closing! We like to hear about that measurable success! Continuing the Jazz fest was Mr. Mac McMillan, CEO of CynergisTek, Inc. who presented *Stretching IT Dollars to Mitigate Risk*. This presentation raised awareness of a state of insecurity due to many things such as landscape, cybercrime, insider threats etc. He provided many strategies for protecting security, keeping HIPPA compliant, and building a framework for security in the future.

Bring on the ensemble of expert panel specialists! Mark Anderson, Dr. Lynn Witherspoon, Charles Laster and Jamie Welch-CPEHR, CPHIT, CPHIE, CIO joined together for a “finale” blending of ideas for the future of Health Information Technology! The attendee’s were treated to a great discussion and provided tremendous ideas!

Encore! Bring them back as we talk about Meaningful Use of EHR!
So, please join in as we plan for the next Regional HIMSS Conference!!!

Time to toot our horn!.....What would we do without the Maestro’s and Conductors of this fabulous production of Harmony in Healthcare?

Please give a round of applause to the Board Members of each chapter with special thanks going to:

Jeanie Berg , Errol Labat, Claudia Blackburn, Terry Evans,
Angela Kennedy all from the Louisiana Chapter
Sharon Davis-Dallas/Ft Worth
Kathleen Catalano-Dallas/Ft Worth
Becky Carruth-Mississippi
Jim Argon-Houston
Stephanie Serra-HIMSS National