

TO: ADAMH/ADAS/CMH Boards
ODADAS-certified/licensed Treatment Programs
ODMH-certified/licensed Agencies

FROM: Angie Bergefurd, Assistant Deputy Director *AB*
Ohio Department of Mental Health
Kurtis Kiesel, Manager of Information Services Administrator *KK*
Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities
Rudy Rodriguez, Chief Information Officer *RR*
Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services
Hubert Wirtz, Chief Executive Officer *HW*
Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers

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SUBJECT: Health Information Technology (HIT) Resources

The purpose of this communication is to remind providers and boards that there are state and local resources available for information and guidance related to electronic health record (EHR) implementation and health information exchange (HIE). Regardless of whether a provider has a fully implemented EHR and is on its way toward meaningful use or is in the beginning stages of exploring EHR options, we would encourage you to take advantage of these resources whenever possible.

The Ohio Health Information Partnership (OHIP) is a state-designated, non-profit organization, which is available to assist Ohio healthcare providers with implementation and adoption of health information technology (HIT). Through state and federal grants, OHIP is available to provide resources to Ohio healthcare providers who wish to purchase or upgrade software for HIE and EHR adoption. You may want to frequently visit the Ohio Health Information Partnership website at <http://ohiponline.org> to gain access to current activities going on across the state related to EHR implementation and HIE.

OHIP also oversees Ohio's Regional Exchange Centers (RECs), except for Healthbridge operating in the Cincinnati area, which provide education, outreach, and technical assistance to healthcare providers in the areas of workflow assessment, vendor purchasing, meaningful use, and EHR incentive payments to assist with successful EHR implementation. A complete listing of the RECs as well as specific information on services provided can be found at <http://ohiponline.org/Pages/RPs.aspx>.

Recently, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) announced the availability of registration for the Medicare and Medicaid electronic health record (EHR) incentive programs. CMS and ONC encouraged broad participation and outlined online and in-person resources that are in place to assist eligible professionals and eligible hospitals who wish to participate. Although Ohio is not currently scheduled for

registration, the attached communication from CMS and ONC contains information and resources that may be useful as you prepare for HIE and EHR adoption.

Additionally, OHIP has created a subcommittee which specifically focuses upon the unique HIT aspects of behavioral health providers and information. The vision of the Behavioral Health subcommittee is that behavioral health care providers will successfully adopt electronic health record solutions and have the capacity to fully participate in the electronic exchange of health care information. More information about this subcommittee as well as a listing of members can be found at <http://ohiponline.org/Pages/BehavioralHealth.aspx>. Please feel free to contact the committee representatives and/or your individual associations with any questions, comments, or concerns to be forwarded to OHIP.

While health care reform continues to be implemented, it is important to note that HIT initiatives such as EHR implementation and HIE are well under way. We collectively encourage you to stay up-to-date on the work of OHIP and the behavioral health subcommittee as well as take advantage of the services of your REC.

Cc: Amanda Lucas, Chair

Ohio Health Information Partnership Behavioral Health Subcommittee