

# HIMSS<sup>®</sup> LOUISIANA Chapter

Transforming healthcare through IT™

## President's Message

### Inside this issue:

HIMSS in New Orleans	2
Update on the Louisiana HIE	3
Upcoming Events	4
Board of Directors	4

Greetings HIMSS Louisiana Chapter Members and Friends,

Hopefully you were able to attend HIMSS13 and walked away without feeling too overwhelmed by the challenges before us! Even if you were unable to attend the Conference the challenges facing everyone in healthcare are very well documented in print and electronic media every day. It makes me feel a little sorry for the patients and practitioners who are beginning to be affected by all of the new rules and regulations impacting payers and providers alike. On the other hand, when the promises of safer and less expensive care are realized, we will all be happier and healthier...right?

It has been an exciting year for the HIMSS Louisiana Chapter. Our state conference last November was a great success! Speakers, vendors and atten-

dees alike enjoyed the networking, education and social opportunities. Having "Big HIMSS" in Louisiana allowed us to host a very well attended reception and provide Louisiana state legislative representatives with a highly personalized experience at the Interoperability Showcase. We are busy now planning additional education and social opportunities throughout the state hosted by our great group of annual sponsors!

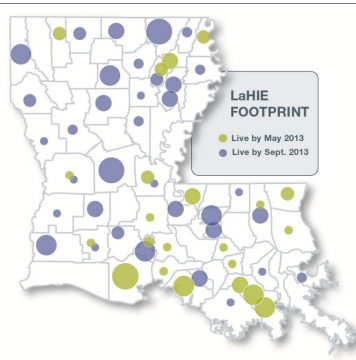
We are particularly excited about hosting the first Health Information Technology Day for the Louisiana State Legislature during their upcoming session. This is an opportunity for us to make our expertise available to the legislators and provide comments and recommendations for pending healthcare legislation. In other states, chapters who host HIT Days consistently build a reputation for being

trusted healthcare subject matter experts and have the opportunity to make a difference by influencing laws that are passed or not. Please stay tuned for your opportunity to participate.

Personally it has been a wonderful experience to work with the Louisiana Chapter Board. They are a very hard working group who always manage to rise to the challenges in addition to being very busy at their day jobs. Never has it been more apparent that if you want something done, give it to someone who is busy!

If you are interested in volunteering and we haven't contacted you, please let us know! We can always use help and the more members involved, the more value we can provide.

Best regards,  
Claude Younger



LaHIE update inside

  
**Volunteer for the Louisiana Chapter of HIMSS**  
 Contact Claude Younger or Alan Thriffiley for additional information:  
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## HIMSS Louisiana Chapter at the 2013 HIMSS Annual Convention and Exhibition March 3–7, 2013 New Orleans, LA



LaHIMSS Social at The Attic at Lucy's Retired Surfers Bar and Restaurant



Mardi Gras themed Communities Open House

The HIMSS Louisiana chapter sponsored several functions during the HIMSS Annual Conference and Exhibition. A social gathering was held at The Attic at Lucy's Retired Surfers Bar and Restaurant.

DHH Secretary Bruce Greenstein accepted our invitation to discuss state healthcare issues. As part of the Louisiana HIMSS advocacy initiative, state legislators were also invited to attend. In the presentation "The State of the State's Health", Mr. Greenstein and his staff discussed the challenges faced by the state. The goals of the office are to improve the efficiency and quality of health-care and to contain costs to improve the lives of Louisiana residents. The presentation also focused on ways health information technology can assist in achieving these goals. Following this, attendees were invited to take a tour of the Interoperability Showcase located in the vendor hall.

Our chapter was also represented at the HIMSS Communities Open House. This event was open to all HIMSS state chapters as well as many workgroups within HIMSS. The Mardi Gras theme made for a lively exchange.



LA HIMSS Board Member Hank Fanberg with DHH Secretary Bruce Greenstein



LaHIMSS Board members Chris Williams, Claude Younger, Michelle Martin and Phillip Caillouet at the Communities Open House

## Update on the Louisiana Health Information Exchange

With more than 130 hospitals, clinics, providers, and other health care companies now enrolled to participate in the Louisiana Health Information Exchange (LaHIE), strategic investments are being made to expand the reach and capabilities of the statewide health information exchange (HIE). LaHIE, an initiative of the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum, officially launched in November 2011 with Lafayette General Medical Center and Opelousas General Health System as pilot sites. Both hospitals went live with LaHIE in December 2011. Also live with LaHIE are Lafayette General Surgical Center, Thibodaux Regional Medical Center and St. Martin Hospital, with many others now in the onboarding process.

In the past year, the exchange has achieved the ability to facilitate bi-directional public health reporting in Louisiana by connecting providers with departments such as the Louisiana Office of Public Health and the Louisiana Immunization Network for Kids Statewide (LINKS). It has also been nationally recognized in October 2012 and again in February 2013 as a national leader in health information technology (IT) advancement.

As the exchange has grown, its reach has widened to include almost every parish in the state, and currently boasts participation agreements with almost half of Louisiana's acute care hospitals. This extended reach has led several rural hospitals to enroll in LaHIE because it enables them to share critical information during patient transfers, which may be common occurrences in rural facilities. St. James Parish Hospital, located in Lusher, La., finds this function of LaHIE to be particularly appealing. Now

actively onboarding with LaHIE, St. James Parish Hospital is expected to be live with the exchange by May 2013.

CEO Mary Ellen Pratt, FACHE, says, "As a rural hospital that frequently transfers patients for a higher level of care, the ability to exchange health information to other partner organizations will help us improve communication, reduce duplication and ultimately enhance care delivery. I believe LaHIE is an important step for all Louisiana health care providers as it improves care coordination."

According to Colby LeMaire, Health IT Client Services Manager for the Quality Forum, "The hospitals and health care providers enrolled in LaHIE have a shared vision: to promote continuity of care, to improve the quality of care, and to reduce redundant costs for the patients they serve. LaHIE is a coordinated approach to achieving this vision."

With LaHIE's reach widening across the state, the Quality Forum is focusing on expanding the exchange's capabilities, says Brian Richmond, Chief Technology Officer for the Quality Forum.

Currently, LaHIE offers such core services as a master patient index, provider registry, record locator service, user identity management and identification, audit services and consent management. In addition to data exchange and public health reporting, LaHIE participation features Continuity of Care Document (CCD) Repository; referrals, direct messaging and notifications; clinical portal; single sign-on; and facilitation of additional functionality with Louisiana Department of Health and Hospital (DHH) services.

LeMaire adds, "In addition,

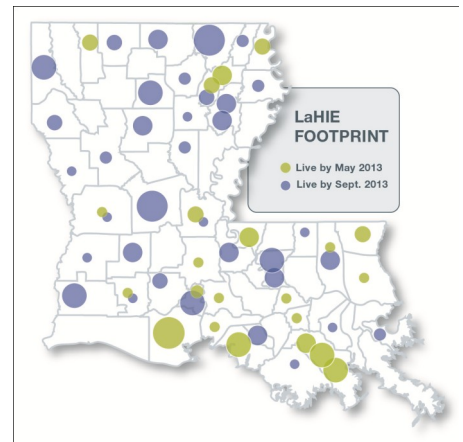
LaHIE will offer the providers, and in the near future, patients, access to a longitudinal view of the clinical history across care settings, giving the patient the best opportunity to receive the right care at the right time."

Going forward, the exchange will also feature patient insurance eligibility, image archiving, streamlined connectivity with eHealth Exchange and a patient portal. The eHealth Exchange, formerly the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN), reaches a community composed of thousands of providers and millions of patients.

"Establishing LaHIE's connectivity with eHealth is a primary objective because it facilitates information exchange across state lines and with agencies such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Department of Veterans Affairs. This is an efficient and cost-effective level of connectivity that providers may not otherwise be able to access," Richmond says.

Another focus for LaHIE is the development and implementation of a patient portal that will provide patients with access to their electronic health records (EHRs). A task force created by the Health Information Technology (HIT) Policy Committee and composed of stakeholders across the state has identified the goals of a patient portal for Louisiana. Using those recommendations as a guide, LaHIE has begun to evaluate solutions that will meet those needs, Richmond says.

Continued on page 4



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Colby LeMaire

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Thanks to our sponsors

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### *Louisiana Chapter of HIMSS Board of Directors*

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## Louisiana HIE Update, continued

Noting that the most important objective is to create a patient portal that is both cost-effective and accessible to providers across Louisiana, Richmond says LaHIE is finalizing the selection of a vendor for the creation of a patient portal with an estimated launch date of the third quarter of 2013.

In addition, Richmond says, LaHIE plans to launch a new level of services focused on analytics in the summer of 2013. These capabilities will include population health management/registries; predictive analytics and risk management; utilization and performance management; and point of care decision support.

"Our initial focus will be on emergency department utiliza-

tion. We'll identify high volume diagnoses and potentially preventable emergency department visits within a given patient population," he explains.

These utilization services will be piloted in East Baton Rouge Parish as part of Mayor Kip Holden's Healthy Baton Rouge Program, Richmond says, adding, "We're very excited about the opportunity to be part of that initiative."

The future is bright for LaHIE, according to Richmond. Not only will the expansion of LaHIE's reach and capabilities benefit Louisiana residents through improved health care delivery, it will also increase efficiency for the state's health care providers and facilities, and all while reducing health

care costs for the state as a whole, he says.

"By facilitating clinical management through structured clinical data and combining HIE and analytics at multiple levels, the Quality Forum has constructed an integrated and sustainable care model that achieves improved health and a higher quality of care at a lower cost to key stakeholders," Richmond explains. "The continued expansion of LaHIE's capabilities and reach is a valuable and crucial investment in health outcomes and health care delivery in Louisiana."

For more information about LaHIE, or to view a complete list of LaHIE participants, visit [www.lhcf.org](http://www.lhcf.org), or email [lahie@lhcf.org](mailto:lahie@lhcf.org).

## Upcoming Events

### **Cajun Codefest**

April 24–26  
Lafayette, LA



**February 23–27**  
**Orlando, Florida**