

Progress Toward A Nationwide Health Information Network: Linking Agency-Held Data Now – Providing Patients With Secure Access to Their Government-Held Personal Health Information Next

July 15, 2009: Moderator and Presenter Bios



**Neal Neuberger, CISSP
Executive Director
Institute for e-Health Policy**

Neal Neuberger was selected as the first Executive Director of the HIMSS Foundation's Institute for e-Health Policy. The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Foundation launched the new Institute for e-Health Policy in May 2008 to provide critical educational opportunities in the Washington, D.C., area for public- and private-sector stakeholders who both make, and are impacted by, e-health policy decisions. He is also president of Health Tech Strategies, LLC, a Virginia-based consulting firm focused on the public and private sector policy environment with regard to research, development and implementation of emerging health care technologies.

Neuberger coordinates a 16-year long "Capitol Hill Steering Committee on Telehealth and Healthcare Informatics" supported by major federal agencies, foundations, and healthcare IT organizations that has produced more than 130 lunch briefing sessions and technology demonstrations for Members of Congress and their staff.

He is Chair of the American Telemedicine Association Policy Committee and recently served on the ATA Board of Directors as Secretary. Neuberger was a senior lobbyist before Congress for the American Hospital Association AHA on budget and appropriations issues. As a legislative assistant to U.S. Rep. David R. Obey (Wis.) on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, he helped conduct many congressional hearings concerning operation and funding of agencies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Labor. He worked for a major committee of the Wisconsin legislature with oversight responsibility for 58 state agencies, served as coordinator of health planning programs and as a lobbyist for the State Medical Society of Wisconsin, and was elected twice to the Dane County Board of Supervisors in Madison, Wis., where he served as the youngest elected official in the state.



Vish Sankaran
Program Director, Federal Health Architecture
Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services

The Federal Health Architecture (FHA), an e-Gov Line of Business under the management of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, was created in 2004 to address the challenge of bringing together more than 20 federal agencies with a health activity to create interoperable systems supporting health information exchange. For the last five years, FHA has been led by Vish Sankaran, first as Program Manager, and since March, 2007, Program Director.

FHA was structured to support a collaborative five-step process designed to provide agencies with tools and solutions for meeting health IT business needs ranging from basic requirements to addressing vital populations. Agencies came together to create products to identify their specific business needs, architect solutions, plan investments, implement health information exchanges, and measure progress. These products are being developed concurrently by FHA-sponsored work groups populated with agency health IT program managers.

To increase agency participation in FHA collaboration, Mr. Sankaran has created strong lines of communication with agency Chief Information Officers and Program Directors to determine how their health business needs could benefit from the tools and solutions developed for health information exchange. In February, 2009, Mr. Sankaran was named as one of the Federal 100 by the editors of *Federal Computer Week*.

Before arriving at HHS in 2005, Mr. Sankaran worked in the private-sector healthcare technology field. He was the director of IT and product operations at CareScience Inc, a healthcare application service provider that helps hospitals and health systems improve care management, clinical performance and data sharing. While at CareScience, he developed strategies to achieve organizational goals, built cohesive teams, increased operational efficiency and reduced costs. In that position, he administered architecture and operations of healthcare software products, including health information exchange solutions.



Jim Traficant
Vice President and Senior Executive Account Manager,
Healthcare Solutions, Government Communications Systems Division
Harris Corporation

Jim Traficant is vice president and senior executive account manager (SEAM) for Healthcare Solutions, Government Communications Systems Division (GCSD). In this capacity, he reports to the group president.

As a two-time liver transplant survivor, Mr. Traficant is passionate about transforming healthcare. Healthcare Solutions is delivering the full value of Harris to the healthcare industry, providing enterprise imaging, information and communications technology, infrastructure, and informatics to government and commercial healthcare organizations.

Mr. Traficant has over 20 years of business development and operational leadership experience in both government and commercial markets. He previously served as vice president of Programs and Business Development for Harris IT Services and division vice president of Business Development for GCSD.

Prior to Harris, Mr. Traficant served as the executive vice president of Exigent International, where he led business development and engineering services. He also served on the corporate board of directors for seven years.

Mr. Traficant holds a B.S.E.E. from Geneva College and an M.B.A. from George Washington University.

Mr. Traficant is a member of the Health Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) and the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA). He also serves as a director for United Network for Organ Sharing.

Harris is an international communications and information technology company serving government and commercial markets in more than 150 countries. Harris is dedicated to developing best-in-class *assured communications*® products, systems, and services.



David Riley
Federal Health Architecture CONNECT Initiative Lead

David Riley is the NHIN CONNECT initiative lead for the Federal Health Architecture (FHA) Program in the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONCHIT).

In this role he facilitates consensus across a group of 26 federal agencies and institutes to enhance health information sharing on a nationwide basis. His work resulted in successful demonstrations of health information sharing across multiple agencies and non-governmental health enterprises in the NHIN Forum of December, 2008. He has served as the Chief, Technology Discovery and Insertion directly for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

He is an experienced entrepreneur with startup experience in both the private sector and large scale IT projects in the federal sector. He is recognized for his skill in bringing together diverse groups with competing interests into working collaborations to tackle large scale complex problems producing working solutions in a reasonable timeframe on a budget.

Mr. Riley is an Air Force Trained Primary Care Physician Assistant with a Bachelor's Degree in Allied Health from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Medicine. He served in the United States Air Force and was deployed during the Persian Gulf War.



Dennis R. Porter
Executive in Residence
Institute for e-Health Policy

Denny Porter is a respected Chief Information Officer and Health Information Technology Strategist. Throughout a healthcare career spanning more than 30 years, he has developed an expertise applicable to performing strategic information technology assessments and determining future modernization needs. Denny specializes in executive level leadership and strategic visioning as it relates to driving information technology advancements in complex medical organizations. He has years of diverse and challenging healthcare experience in Chief Information Officer and commercial executive leadership roles. He is known as an innovative operational executive with extensive experience in large-scale health systems.

As the Health Information Technology Strategist for Northrop Grumman's Health IT Programs Business Unit, he works collaboratively with other senior executives providing the technical and market assessments for the company's long range strategic plan. Prior to becoming the Health IT Strategist, Mr. Porter served in a variety of customer facing roles. As the Military Health System Program Manager he served as Northrop Grumman's ambassador bridging technical, political and contractual constraints. As the European District Manager at SAIC, he was responsible for the overall leadership, supervision, and operational management for all SAIC staff providing support to U.S. Department of Defense Medical Treatment Facilities in Europe and the Middle East. He continues to succeed in increasing and improving customer satisfaction levels through project control practices, process enhancement, efficiency, and productivity improvements. Additionally, Mr. Porter served 20-years with the United States Air Force serving as a Medical Service Corp Officer in multiple management positions before retiring in 1999.

Originally from Victor, New York Mr. Porter received a Masters degree in Management Information Systems from Oklahoma City University and a Bachelors of Science in Health Care Administration from Wayland University. He is also a Certified Professional in Healthcare Information and Management Systems. Mr. Porter is a published author and has completed the Healthcare Information Systems Management Program at the Harvard School of Public Health, and a healthcare chief information officer internship with U.S. Air Force Medical Service Corps.

Mr. Porter resides in Stafford, Virginia with his wife Shirley. Denny and Shirley have two sons, Andrew and Todd.