

## ***"An Early Checkup on HITECH Implementation Efforts"***

November 19, 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.



**Johanna Barraza-Cannon**  
**Director, Division of Health IT Policy**  
**Office of Health IT, HRSA**

Johanna joined the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT) as its policy director in January 2006; a month after the office's inception. Johanna's work with OHIT includes providing technical assistance to HRSA grantees, developing and implementing HRSA's HIT strategy, and collaborating with HRSA grantees, Federal partners, and other stakeholders, and implementing the HIT provisions of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

Under her direction, OHIT has created the Health Information Technology Technical Assistance Center (HITTAC) which provides technical assistance to safety net grantees such as health centers and rural providers and those serving children and persons with HIV/AIDS. In the past year, HITTAC has conducted numerous web-based training sessions, sponsored regional HIT and EHR implementation workshops, created a web-based community for sharing HIT information among safety net providers, and created a web-based EHR implementation toolkit.

Prior to her work at HRSA, Johanna was with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for almost five years as the technical director of the Children's Health Insurance Program. She also has experience in private sector consulting, public affairs, and as a research and budget analyst with the Illinois State Legislature. She obtained her Masters in Public Policy with a graduate certificate in health policy from the University of Chicago and her BA in Economics from Reed College in Portland, Oregon.



**Christine Bechtel**  
**Vice President**

Christine Bechtel is the Vice President of the **National Partnership for Women & Families**, a non-profit consumer advocacy organization based in Washington DC. The National Partnership has been the driving force behind some of the country's most important policies and initiatives, including the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, and the Consumer Partnership for eHealth. As Vice President, Bechtel oversees the day to day operations of the organization, including its work on health care quality, information technology and patient engagement. She also serves on the federal Health IT Policy Committee.



Bechtel was previously Vice President of the **eHealth Initiative (eHI)**, where she led the organization's membership, public policy and government relations work. She has a background in health care quality improvement from her work with the **American Health Quality Association** and **Louisiana Health Care Review**, a Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (QIO). As a Senior Research Advisor at **AARP**, Bechtel conducted public opinion studies with consumers regarding their views on national political issues. She began her career as a Legislative Associate for **United States Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD)**, where she focused on legislative issues ranging from women's health and stem cell research to Medicare and Social Security.



**Michael R. Lardiere, LCSW**  
**Director, Health IT and Sr. Advisor, Behavioral Health**  
**National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)**

Michael R. Lardiere LCSW is currently the Director of Health Information Technology and the Senior Advisor for Behavioral Health at the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC). Mr. Lardiere has over thirty years of health care experience in inpatient, outpatient and managed care settings and was behavioral health administrator for one of the largest FQHCs in the nation. He has extensive experience in integrating behavioral health and primary care. His managed care experience includes senior positions in clinical and provider relations areas and was responsible for provider contracting, profiling and quality for over 20,000 clinicians and 5,000 facilities in the Northeast.

Mr. Lardiere is engaged with health centers, health center controlled networks, Primary Care Associations, the National Health Information Network and other health information systems to advance the field of health information exchange. He is responsible for developing strategy and in assisting health centers across the nation in implementing various HIT strategies to improve quality care. In addition, as an experienced and licensed mental health professional, Mr. Lardiere not only provides consulting services in mental health, substance abuse but also in integrating these services with the medical fields. Mr. Lardiere is a Board Member of the National eHealth Collaborative and was recently selected to be a CCHIT reviewer for behavioral health EHRs.



**Brian Wagner,  
Senior Director of Policy and Public Affairs, eHealth Initiative**

Brian Wagner is the Senior Director of Policy and Public Affairs for the eHealth Initiative (eHI). He oversees policy, government relations, and media efforts for eHI, and also works closely with its' 165-plus member organizations to educate them about all health information technology-related news and developments. His role includes serving as the staff lead for eHI's Policy Steering Committee, Policy Working Group, and Privacy Working Group, as well as running eHI's Policy Webinar series. He previously served as Director of Government Relations, and joined eHI in 2008 as Manager of Government Relations and Public Policy.

Prior to working for eHI, Brian served as Executive Assistant, Legislative Aide, and Policy Advisor for Congressman Brian Baird (WA-03). While working in the House of Representatives, Brian gained extensive experience advising Mr. Baird on health care policy, as well as a variety of other issue areas including foreign policy, immigration, and defense.

Brian graduated with a B.A. in Political Science from Columbia University, and has completed graduate coursework at the National Defense University and the USDA Graduate School.

Brian is a Public Affairs Officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve, assigned to the Navy Public Affairs Support Element-East in Norfolk, VA.