



eHI COVID-19 Federal Policy Work Group Meeting Summary Monday, May 11, 2020

Participants:

- Eileen Koski – IBM
- Michelle Barry - Availity
- Patricia MacTaggart – George Washington University
- Mark Pratt - CAQH
- Aprile Slensby - MedAllies
- Angela Evatt – Change Healthcare
- Constanza Villalba - Elsevier
- Bradley Thompson – Epstein, Becker & Green
- Lauren Hunka - HCSC
- Gregory Magazu – Change Healthcare
- Mark Segal – Digital Health Policy Advisors, LLC
- Dana Haynes-Powell – CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield
- Lindsey Adams - Cerner
- Wentao Zhou - HC
- Rani Aravamudhan – HDMS | Aetna
- Jeff Sitko - MedAllies
- Jonathan Linder – BlueCross BlueShield of Michigan
- Lindsay Jager - Cerner
- Jen Smith - NextGen

Background on the COVID-19 Federal Policy Work Group and its goals

- While eHI is pleased with the steps taken so far by Congress and the administration to leverage digital health and health IT to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, we believe there is more left to do
- eHI formed the COVID-19 Federal Policy Work Group to help craft a report with a set of recommendations to fully leverage health IT and digital health to fight COVID-19 and future public health challenges
- Every meeting will focus on a specific issue area, with this meeting focused on artificial intelligence and machine learning

Discussion

Use Cases: COVID-19 & Artificial Intelligence

- Eileen Koski, M.Phil., FAMIA, IBM
 - Eileen presented updates on use of AI and other digital technology during COVID-19, including:
 - When the pandemic began, IBM realized that people would need more support working and educating from home – launched Watson Assistant for Citizens to help reduce the burden on governments and organizations
 - IBM also opened access to their high performing computing consortium to bring together the federal government, industry, and academic leaders – focused on developing treatments and a vaccine
 - Also focused on accelerating discovery: Deep Search services; drug candidate exploration; and IBM Functional Genomics Platform
 - Providing trusted information: utilizing the Weather Channel to distribute easily understandable and factual information
 - Expanded the Call for Code 2020 to address the COVID-19 pandemic

Work Group Discussion

- Proposed recommendations:
 - Funding for research and testing in three areas:
 - Research
 - Treatment
 - Public health surveillance
- Added one additional recommendation idea from Eileen’s presentation: government development of recommended best practices for validating data and data sources
- Work group members agreed with the proposed recommendations, with some suggested clarifications
- One member stated that we should make clear that treatment includes vaccines as well
- Another pointed out that we should clarify that we are talking about AI as a research tool
- A work group member also raised the point that treatment tools should not be a priority for federal funding given that possible reimbursement is usually enough of an economic incentive
- We should also be clear that funding should focus on tools that reduce health disparities

Next Meeting: May 25th, 1-2:30 PM EDT, Broadband