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Industry Experts Gather to Discuss Health Information Technology
- Conversation focuses on best practices and services offered through the Florida Health Information Exchange -

Tallahassee, FL – Today, over 65 hospital executives, health care providers, and industry experts gathered in Tallahassee to discuss the opportunities and challenges of the growing industry of health information technology, or health IT. Hosted by the Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency), topics discussed at the half-day symposium included current health IT initiatives, the importance of privacy and security measures, and practical applications for information technology in the modern health care system.

“Florida has always been a leader with regards to the adoption and implementation of health IT,” said Elizabeth Dudek, Agency Secretary. “As technology continues to play a greater role in our lives, its influence on the field of health care will also continue to expand. Optimizing the flow of patient information can substantially improve health outcomes through more collaborative delivery systems. Today’s event offered great insight into current health IT trends as well as a glimpse into its exciting future.”

Craig Dalton, CEO of Strategic Health Intelligence added, “I want to thank the Agency for providing this forum that enabled me to interact with other leaders in the local and national health care community. I’m proud to live and work in a state that has consistently supported the use of emerging technologies to improve the health and well-being of its citizens.”

Secretary Dudek’s opening remarks focused on three Agency resources that use technology to support its mission of “Better Health Care for All Floridians” – FloridaHealthFinder.gov, the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse, and the Florida Health Information Exchange. Together, these tools empower millions of Floridians to make more informed health care decisions, more quickly vet and employ qualified health care providers, exchange information at the point of care, and better serve patients receiving their treatment in a managed care environment.

Members of three discussion panels included consultants, hospital executives, health plan representatives, health care providers, and agency staff members who were able to draw from decades of consolidated experience developing and implementing health IT programs.

State of the State: Health Information Technology

Panelists discussed the various health IT initiatives that are setting Florida apart in this field, including electronic health records and the Florida Health Information Exchange (Florida HIE), which is steadily adding new users to its impressive network.

Health IT: Security Savvy

This panel focused on the special considerations that must be made for privacy and the security of information flowing through health IT systems.



Health IT: Practical Applications

The Practical Applications panel discussed the benefits and challenges of integrating technology into various types of health care settings. Recommendations were made on mitigating the difficulties of implementing new technologies while maximizing the benefits for providers and patients.

If you would like to receive notification of future health IT events hosted by the Agency, please visit <https://www.florida-hie.net/contactus.html> and subscribe to our mailing list.

The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 45,000 health care facilities and 34 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at FloridaHealthFinder.gov. For more information about the health information exchange, please visit <http://www.fhin.net/> or <https://www.florida-hie.net>.

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