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Fourth Round of Participants Selected to Join Florida’s Health Information Exchange
~Floridians can benefit from use of electronic health records~

TALLAHASSEE – Five more organizations have been selected to join Florida’s Health Information Exchange (HIE), which brings the total number of participants to 17. The technology framework provided by the HIE will enable participating health care providers to timely and securely access patient health information.

“We are pleased to continue to have more participants join the exchange and to see increased use of electronic health records,” said Liz Dudek, Secretary of the Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency). “This effort will ultimately lead to enhancements in patient care through greater coordination among providers.”

The selected organizations are Ft. Lauderdale-based Broward Health, Health First, based in Melbourne, Martin Health System in Stuart and Port St. Lucie, Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach, and Tampa Bay Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO), which represents member hospitals in Hillsborough County. The organizations were selected to join the exchange because of their readiness for secured sharing of health information with other participants in the Florida HIE.

The Agency has a contract with Harris Corporation to develop the health information exchange infrastructure that will connect health organizations including physicians, hospitals, regional health information exchanges and state government agencies. Under this contract, 20 health organizations will be brought into the exchange by 2014 through assisted on-boarding provided by Harris. The final group of assisted on-boarders will be selected from applications submitted by the December 1, 2012 deadline. After July 1, 2014 organizations can continue to join the exchange, but technical assistance will not be available through the state contract.

The first three organizations that were selected in July 2011 are Tallahassee-based Big Bend RHIO, Pensacola-based Strategic Health Intelligence, LLC, and the Florida Division of Adventist Health System Sunbelt Healthcare Corporation. The experience of these organizations has been valuable to those who have joined the exchange after them.

The second round of organizations, selected in November 2011, included Orlando Health, Atlantic Coast HIE in Hollywood, Health Choice Network in Miami, and the Florida Department of Health. The third round of organizations, selected in April 2012, included Community Health Centers Alliance, Kindred Healthcare, Health Management Associates, and Shands at the University of Florida. In addition, IOS Health Systems will be joining without Harris assistance by providing their
own technical support to “self on-board” to the Florida HIE. These organizations are working with Harris to establish connectivity within the next few months.

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 40,000 health care facilities and 37 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at FloridaHealthFinder.gov. For more information about the health information exchange, visit www.AHCA.MyFlorida.com or https://www.florida-hie.net.

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