

New England States Collaborative Insurance Exchange Systems (NESCIES) 2/15/2011

The goal of the *New England States Collaborative Insurance Exchange Systems* (NESCIES) project is to create Information Technology (IT) components that are consumer-focused, cost-effective, reusable, and sustainable to operate Health Insurance Exchanges (HIXs) as a key element of health care reform. The NESCIES project approach will be to create and build a flexible HIX Information Technology framework in Massachusetts designed to connect consumers, small businesses, and health plans that can be tailored to the needs of the New England states and beyond.

Massachusetts and the New England states possess the technical expertise to deliver standards-based, system components on an accelerated development cycle in cooperation with the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (OCIO). The OCIO funding, \$35 million over 2 years, will be used to develop technology solutions that are component-based, adaptable, and based on national standards so that Massachusetts and other states can gain efficiencies in advance of 2014 health reforms and accelerate HIX operations for state based exchanges.

The University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) will serve as the recipient and manager for the lead state of Massachusetts. **Jay Himmelstein** MD, MPH will serve as Principle Investigator, and **Michael Tutty**, MHA, MS will serve as Project Director. **Manu Tandon**, MBA, MPA, is the Chief Information Officer for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) in Massachusetts and will serve as Principal Technology Lead. **Robert Nevins**, the Chief Operating Officer of the Massachusetts Connector Authority, will serve as Principle Functional Lead.

UMMS has a well-established partnership with EOHHS in evaluating and implementing innovations in health care systems involving those served by the public sector. UMMS has been a thought leader in the area of public sector health information technology policy and has extensive experience in partnering with state agencies and providing multi-state technical assistance on complex CMS-funded projects.

In addition to working directly with Massachusetts to develop the IT system components under this initiative, UMMS will work in partnership with the New England States Consortium Systems Organization (NESCSO), a non-profit corporation organized by the six New England Health and Human Services agencies, to foster communication and collaboration among states. **Nancy Peterson**, Deputy Director of NESCSO will serve as Interstate Project lead. Overall project priorities and shared development activities will be informed by an Interstate Steering Committee convened and chaired by **Brenda Harvey**, NESCSO Executive Director, and made up of business and technical leads of the collaborating states.

The goal of the NESCIES Interstate Steering Committee is to provide guidance and feedback to the Massachusetts team to assure that HIX components developed for Massachusetts will be consumer-friendly, cost-effective IT systems that can be used and adopted by other New England states (and nationally) and help each New England state save money as they work to develop their own Exchanges. The Interstate Steering Committee will work to share or leverage the Massachusetts implementation to reuse the appropriate residuals and knowledge base or lower acquisition costs through regional group purchasing agreements.

NESCIES Key Contacts:

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New England States Consortium Systems Organization

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