

Systems, Logistics, and Applications Management (SLAM) meeting
12/18/06, 1:00-2:00 pm

Next Meeting: January 22, 2007
3:00-4:00
Room 827B

Participants: Nick Knickerbocker, Rodney Garland, Mike Emerson, Anna Halpin,
Curtis Cude, JA Magnuson, Stephen Ladd-Wilson

Meeting Overview

- Introductions
 - Curtis introduced the group and gave a little background. He informed the SLAM that the national group that is guiding development of the National Network has a workplan which SLAM will often have to react to, so tasks will likely be clearer for this group than the DUNC group.
 - Curtis gave a brief history of the Advisory Groups at the national level. SLAM will be the Oregon group advising the Oregon Program on technical needs. EPHT program staff and members of the SLAM group will work at the local level, and also providing feedback and support to the National level on network architecture.
 - Stephen asked if there was currently a network that different datasources can be plugged into. Pacific Northwest Water Quality Data Exchange (PNWWQX) is an example of one provided by Curtis which uses standards developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This standard is called the National Environmental Information Exchange Network and uses a form of web services to exchange data.
 - How does that differ from PHIN-ms? JA explained that they are complementary, with PHIN-ms basically just a transporter of data. There is new messaging software, Orion Rhapsody, that she believes is analogous to PHIN-ms with additional features. She has requested to get Orion Rhapsody but has yet used.
 - PHIN-ms is not very user-friendly and many of the local health divisions and labs are not interested in using it either because of lack of interest and/or knowledge. Health labs are especially not interested in using outside software. Stephen said we can download and start using it now, just as a learning process. Dave O'Neil from OIS has used it. Some of the larger counties may have a higher interest. sFTP is easier, more accessible and PHIN compliant. There are other options out there, that are easier to use and PHIN compliant, so we need to find out more details about what is out there to be used and what the issues involved in using these might be.
 - JA clarified that PHIN compliant is not the same thing as PHIN. PHIN does much more; sFTP is simply a file transfer protocol, so there are other

considerations than simply PHIN compliance. Stephen asked if it is a function of this group to find out what is out there, and what the benefits/detriments to these are. Curtis said that nationally they are pushing PHIN-ms, but this group should explore this and feedback information to CDC.

- Stephen asked what professionals comprised the NASG. Curtis responded that it is not necessarily architects, but a variety of different expertise and knowledge.
- Review of OTAG charter:
 - Spell out acronyms on this and other documents.
- Review/Discuss Summary of National workgroups
 - Curtis gave a detailed review of what the national workgroups do, and this group would be most aligned with the Systems Network Development (SND), and particularly the Network Architecture Sub Group (NASG).
 - We have some national guidance on required content and indicators, but Oregon can develop local issues that may be of more use and interest to Oregonians. State Environmental Health Indicators Collaborative (SEHIC) has been used to develop national indicators, and EPHT has started using some of that information.
 - NASG has been examining combinations of different hardware and software, and SLAM will be providing feedback on some of these (as yet nonexistent) systems.
 - NASG has also done a “survey” to find out what types of portals are out there, how they work, and how they relate to the national discussions. NASG has also developed some transport recommendations, which Curtis provided by handout and asked if everyone could read and provide feedback so that he can report back to the national group.
 - Curtis described that NASG has also been investigating gateways and portals, where a portal is human interface and a gateway is presence on the EPHT Network.
 - There will be a joint SLAM/DUNC meeting in February that will demonstrate the VISTA PH system. Nita Heimann (co-chair of the DUNC) will provide this demonstration.
- Nomination of co-chair
 - Stephen nominated Nick, who expressed reservations as he may not continue with this group. Nick agreed to act as the co-chair, and if a new architect is assigned to us, he could pass information on to the new person, in a technical language they understand. Stephen further commented that having an OIS person/architect is really critical not just for their experience, but that they would also be able to keep IT informed of what is happening in EPHT.
 - Nick was elected as co-chair.

- Standard meeting time
 - Fourth Monday 3:00.

Next meeting is January 22 at the EOE office, 827 NE Oregon Street, Suite 250, Conference Room B. Topics will include a discussion of EPHTN transport recommendations, PHIN MS testing, and an examination of the SND and NASG workplan to help us plan which issues to study when.

Action Item: By COB Friday, January 19, please read and provide feedback on the EPHTN transport recommendations, to be provided.