



Health Passport News

Nevada, North Dakota and Wyoming

Summer 2001

Final Evaluation Presented to Governors

The Urban Institute and Phoenix/Maximus Evaluation team recently completed the final evaluation report on the Health Passport Project. The executive summary was presented to the Governors at the annual meeting of the Western Governors' Association in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

The report includes key findings of the three state demonstration, lessons learned, costs analysis, and recommendations for statewide rollout.

Upon review of the document the Governors will make their recommendations for continuation of the project specific to their individual states as well as with regard to the coordination among states and expansion to additional states.

The WGA team is grateful to all the partners and friends of Health Passport who took the time to review the evaluation draft and make comments regarding further clarification and accuracy of the information included in the document.

Health Passport Receives Funding Opportunity

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMMS) formerly known as Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) recently notified WGA of an opportunity to apply for up to \$500,000 to support activities related to the Health Passport Project.

CMMS's interests are to make funds available to support the current phase of the project and to help develop a system that will protect the security and confidentiality of healthcare information.

A concept paper requesting the funding was submitted in July and funding is expected by the end of September.

Highlights of HPP Council Meeting

The HPP Council met in Denver June 21-22. The WGA team discussed what has been accomplished in the project to date, the evaluators reviewed the preliminary evaluation results and the Council discussed where everyone wants to go in the future with HPP. Members brainstormed on additional partners and additional uses of the card.

Additional Partners

- Add a large state
- Medicaid
 - Eligibility
 - Provider payment
- Child support
- Schools/Immunizations
- Private Medical and Dental
- Hospitals
- Banks
- Insurance
- Foster lad program
- Commercial Partners
- JTPA
- Pharmacies
- IHS and Tribal
- Private Consumers
- Transit authorities - Public
- Exploring other agencies that do not have technology
- Re-establish high-level Governments interest/Partners

Additional Uses

- Real time data
- Payment systems
- Longitudinal data uses
- EMT - uses
- Foster kid program
- Health education
- Customization of health information
- Kiosk (web links)
- PC's
- Wireless
- Internet
- Client to be able to update card - when presented
- Expanded Head Start use
- Add more storage - 32K and durability of card reader
- Family goal setting

Kiosks and Community Partnerships

We would like to ask for your help on optimizing the use of kiosks such as expanding information available on the kiosks.

Surveys showed that many clients were unaware of the purpose of the kiosk and that staff were generally not proactive in encouraging kiosk use. We believe that kiosks have enormous potential for client learning, empowerment and expansion of the Health Passport system.

Please share your thoughts with your site managers on how you think we could promote their use or changes you would like to see. Are there agencies in your community that we could partner with as far as kiosk use? We look forward to your suggestions!

Health Passport Project Receives WIC Funding

Through the support and preparation of grant application by the North Dakota and Nevada State WIC Programs, Health Passport recently received funding from USDA/FNS to continue the HPP operations for the next year. The funding will support state operations of the project, HPP host operations and maintenance of the hardware and software associated with Health Passport.

Recent of this funding reaffirms the support of Federal and Regional USDA/FNS offices of the work being done at the local level in all three Health Passport states.

Change in Reno Support

Effective August 1, Ginger Paulsen will no longer be the WGA Reno site manager. In lieu of her absence Asima Mazhar and Bertie Bishop will be filling in as WGA Reno Support Managers. We will be in Reno August 20-24 to visit will all partners and associates as well as being available by phone and email as the needs arise, with follow-up onsite visits to be scheduled. We are looking forward to working with our Reno partners and learning more about your clinic operations and plans for next year.

For More Information

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If you have information or ideas to share in this newsletter, please contact your local HPP Site Manager. The Health Passport newsletter is published quarterly.

**You can also visit the Western Governors'
Association Web site at:
www.westgov.org/wga/initiatives/hpp**