

The Bangor Beacon Community (BBC), comprised of 12 Partners and led by EMHS, is working to improve the health of chronically ill people in the Bangor region through sustainable care coordination that is facilitated by health information technology (HIT). More than a dozen additional statewide collaborators are working to ensure that the improved outcomes brought about through BBC learning and health information exchange, are extended throughout the State of Maine. The BBC is supported through a three year, \$12.75 million grant from the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for HIT.

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The Bangor Beacon Community (BBC) held its Finishing Strong Retreat on May 8. Carol Beasley from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) facilitated the meeting. Information gathered from the retreat will help comprehensive workplan for the last year of the grant.

The Bangor Beacon Patient Advisory Group convened its second meeting on May 30, 2012. Participants consistently commented on how much they value being part of the Bangor Beacon conversation. The next meeting is scheduled for the end of June.

James Raczek, MD, vice president and chief medical officer at Eastern Maine Medical Center (EMMC), and CoP Lead for Clinical Transformation, was selected as our BBC health IT and meaningful use champion to attend a special White House Health IT Town Hall event on June 19.

Cathy convened the Community of Practice (CoP) Leaders on May 29 to discuss Bangor Beacon governance for the final year. The group added a few members so that each partner has a representative. This CoP Leads group will make the decision during the final year of the grant, including developing the sustainability model.

Cathy Bruno, BBC executive sponsor, was honored with the 2012 Award for Innovation Leadership from the MIT Sloan CIO Symposium. The award honors chief information officers who lead their organizations to pursue the innovative use of information technology and business processes to deliver business value.

Patient Centered Strategy

Performance Improvement – Eastern Maine Medical Center’s (EMMC) Family Medicine of Brewer practice is piloting a statin protocol. Medical assistants will use the protocol to adjust statin dosages in patients with chronic conditions such as diabetes and coronary artery disease to proactively address high cholesterol readings. Penobscot Community Health Care (PCHC) and St. Joseph’s Healthcare will pilot the protocol as well.

Care Management –The next Care Manager Forum is scheduled for June 21, 2012 at PCHC. Provider interviews regarding care management models have been completed and a report will follow soon. Care managers at EMMC practices are moving to the practice offices to allow more integration with the patient care team.

Health Information Technology & Meaningful Use – BBC is working on some final issues of data exchange between practices and HealthInfoNet (HIN). Issues are being resolved, validated, and tested with all practices. Community Health and Counseling Services (CHCS) users will have view only access to HIN in June.

Home Care Transition of Care Project – The homecare group is now extending enrolment for the tele-monitoring project to referrals from care managers at the primary care practices.

Mental Health – The Mental Health Task Force is investigating successful models of behavioral health integration in primary care practices for further discussion and review with BBC partners and forum participants. The group is planning to hold another forum in the fall.

Workforce Development – Centricity servers were installed at Eastern Maine Community College and faculty training continues. Implementation of the health information technology curriculum is scheduled to begin in Fall 2012.

Challenges/Opportunities

Sustainability – Cathy Bruno and Mike Donahue presented BBC’s Sustainability ideas to the ONC Sustainability Community of Practice Leader meeting on May 25, 2012.

Dissemination – Barbara Sorondo, MD, and EMMC’s Clinical Research Center has submitted several abstracts to Academy Health for a number of targeted publications. BBC is featured as a *Story from the Field* on the ONC’s website.

Submitted by Catherine Bruno, Executive Sponsor

**Bangor Beacon
Community
Partners**

EMHS
The Acadia Hospital
Community Health
and Counseling
Eastern Maine
Community College
Eastern Maine
HomeCare
Eastern Maine
Medical Center
HealthInfoNet
Maine Primary
Care Association
Penobscot
Community
Health Care
Ross Manor
St. Joseph
Healthcare
Stillwater Healthcare

