## Message from Leadership

Greetings, partners in health! We proudly present the fourth edition of the Department of Defense/ Department of Veterans Affairs (DoD/VA) Interagency Program Office's (IPO) bulletin, *The IPO Bridge*. In this issue, we share our recent successes, activities and engagements, as well as our future priorities to enhance health data interoperability and advance healthcare for our deserving beneficiaries. As we continue the transition to the 58th Presidential Administration, we welcome new members of the IPO Executive Committee and thank our existing partners for their unrelenting support. Together, we continue to achieve remarkable milestones, progress towards advancing global health data interoperability, and ensuring our service members, veterans, and their families receive dynamic, world-class healthcare. If you have feedback or questions, please contact *dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil*.

Lauren C. Thompson, Ph.D.
Director, DoD/VA IPO

Steven G. Schliesman
Deputy Director, DoD/VA IPO

## MHS GENESIS Launches at Fairchild AFB

Last month, the Program Executive Office, Defense Healthcare Management Systems (PEO DHMS) launched MHS GENESIS, the DoD's new electronic health record (EHR). A single, integrated inpatient and outpatient EHR for use across the Military Health System, MHS GENESIS will transform the delivery of healthcare and advance data sharing through a modernized EHR for our service members, veterans, and their families. Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Washington, is the first Initial Operational Capability (IOC) site to launch the application in the Pacific Northwest (PNW). Deployments at additional IOC sites across the PNW will continue later this year, including at Naval Hospital (NH) Oak Harbor, NH Bremerton, and Madigan Army Medical Center. DoD's implementation of MHS GENESIS across all facilities globally is targeted for 2022. Click *here* for more information.

## IPO's IEEE-SA Membership

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Standards Association (IEEE-SA) is a leading consensus building organization that develops, nurtures, and advances global technologies by facilitating standards development and standards-related collaboration. In November, the IPO established its membership to IEEE-SA in order to collaborate and recommend proposed standards to represent the Departments' mission of maturing data, standards, and interoperability. Moving forward, the IPO will continue to focus on current and emerging standards regarding medical and mobile devices and facilitate dialogue on security, interoperability, and additional best practices. Click *here* to learn more.

## Dr. Thompson Speaks at ACMPDC Panel

In January, Dr. Thompson participated in the Washington D.C. Chapter of the Association of Change Management Professionals' panel discussion on effective strategies for driving new initiatives associated with transitions in government. The event featured executives from the public and private sector and highlighted their experiences, challenges, and lessons learned when responding to cross-cutting changes throughout the public sector. In addition, the panelists discussed strategies and tactics to motivate and drive desired outcomes around changes to new policies, procedures, processes and systems. Click *here* for more information.

## 2017 FedHealthIT 100 Winners!

Congratulations to Ms. Stacy Cummings, Program Executive Officer, PEO DHMS, Dr. Thompson, Mr. Schliesman, and other winners within PEO DHMS, for being recognized as the *2017 Federal Health IT 100 leaders*! Recipients are selected for this distinguished honor on behalf of their peers for driving change, going above and beyond expectations, and advancing the Federal Health Information Technology market. The winners are featured in the *Fed Health IT Magazine's* Winter 2017 Issue. For this year's list of top 100 Federal Health IT leaders, please click *here*.

## IPO's January Town Hall
### 21st Century Cures Act

The IPO kicked off its first Town Hall of calendar year 2017 with guest speakers from the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS). Representatives from the IPO, PEO DHMS, the Defense Health Agency, and VA, also participated in the event, highlighting the 21st Century Cures Act signed into law by President Barack Obama in December 2016. The 21st Century Cures Act not only includes provisions to enhance interoperability and electronic health information exchange, but also patient access to health data, patient record matching, telehealth, and steps taken to discourage information blocking. While reviewing these provisions, representatives analyzed sections and highlighted its potential impact on the Departments, the IPO, and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), and its effects on the future of health IT. For the HIMSS analysis of the 21st Century Cures Act, please click *here*.

# HL7's C-CDA Affinity Group

Health Level Seven® International's (HL7) Consolidated Clinical Document Architecture (C-CDA) is the primary form of electronic care summary exchange in the United States. Each month, millions of C-CDAs are exchanged through Health Information Exchanges, peer-to-peer networks, and direct patient downloads.

During an IPO Health Interoperability & Exchange Alliance Technical Forum, several representatives from DoD and VA expressed concerns regarding the quality of their C-CDAs and the ability to obtain official, authoritative guidance to resolve their issues. To address these concerns, the IPO partnered with the Departments to launch the

C-CDA Affinity Group. The group meets bi-monthly and focuses on addressing DoD, VA, and C-CDA issues, as well as identifying solutions through official HL7 guidance or standards updates. Moving forward, future Affinity Group efforts will focus on improving document content quality with the ONC C-CDA scorecard.

## IPO Metrics Summit VII

In January, the IPO's Metrics & Analytics (M&A) Division hosted *Metrics Summit VII*. The event brought together participants from the DoD, VA, academia, and the private sector, to discuss the current state of DoD/VA Outcome-Oriented Metrics, provide an overview of Health IT infrastructures, and discuss the relationship between performance measures and quality of care. The forum featured guest speakers such as, Dr. Allen Flynn from the University of Michigan, Mr. Jeff Livesay from the Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services, and Dr. Jeremy Sussman from the University of Michigan Medical School. The M&A Division representatives also shared IPO's recent Outcome-Oriented Metrics Initiatives to assess interoperability's impact on Patient Empowerment and the Separating Service Members/Integrated Disability Evaluation System Claims Process. Furthermore, IPO leadership provided opening and closing remarks to highlight the importance and impact of quality metrics on process improvement.



## Calendar of Events

**2017**
*Save the date !*

### March
| | |
|---|---|
| 16 | HIEA Technical Forum |
| 20 | Interoperability in Action Day |
| 23 | Joint Executive Committee Meeting |
| 28 | ATARC Mobile Computing Summit |
| 30 | American Nursing Informatics Association Annual Conference |

### April
| | |
|---|---|
| 15 | HIDS Work Group |
| 19 | HIEA JSC Quarterly |
| 20-21 | Military & Government Electronic Health Records Symposium |
| 26 | DoD/VA IPO EXCOM |

### May
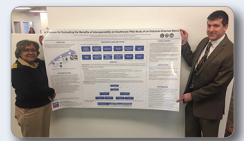| | |
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| 6-12 | HL7 International Working Group Meeting |
| 10 | DoD/VA IPO Town Hall |
| 11 | FHA Council Meeting |

## VA Modernization Efforts

In December, the VA completed proof-of-concept demonstrations of a proposed cloud-based Digital Health Platform (DHP). This framework will integrate health data from the VA, military, commercial EHRs, applications, devices, and wearables to provide information to a veteran's healthcare team in real-time. In addition, the DHP incorporates health data standards, such as HL7's Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources and cloud-based technologies to combine innovations that deliver new functionality to providers serving our beneficiaries. The new DHP works with Vista and commercial EHRs. This modernized platform advances the mission of providing world-class healthcare to service members, veterans, and their families. Click *here* for more information.

## IPO Presents Poster at HIMSS17



In February, IPO representatives presented a poster at the 2017 HIMSS Annual Conference & Exhibition in Orlando, Florida, to present findings from a recent pilot study. The poster demonstrated a consensus-based, repeatable process when developing new outcome-oriented metrics for health data sharing. Using diabetes screenings in DoD and VA as the subject for the evaluation, the poster demonstrated if A1C screening results are present in a service member's DoD record within the previous year, secondary A1C screenings are less likely to occur in the VA's record. The DoD and VA highlighted the impact on the ordering of a diabetic screening test when data is presumed to be adequately shared between the Departments.

## HL7 Ballot Cycle 2 Synopsis

As a benefactor member of HL7, the DoD/VA IPO participated in HL7's January 2017 ballot cycle. The IPO prioritized and reviewed ballots following analysis of their potential impact on interoperability between DoD, VA, and their partners in health. Ballot topics included the Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources, Clinical Information Modeling Initiative Logical Models, Version 3 Domain Analysis Models: Generalized Anxiety Disorder, and Data Access Framework Research. During the final week, the IPO met with representatives from the DoD and VA to harmonize decisions, resulting in five (5) affirmative and six (6) negative comments. In January, the Departments attended the HL7 Working Group Meeting (WGM) in San Antonio, Texas to further influence and improve health IT standards and completed the HL7 Evaluation Report and analysis of critical ballots. Click *here* for more information.

## Meet Our Staff – Kenneth Blount



Serving as the Innovation Team Lead and Acquisition/IT Program Manager for the IPO's Innovation & Engagement Division, Mr. Kenneth Blount projects a hard-working demeanor as he supports the DoD/VA mission to provide top-quality healthcare to service members, veterans, and families across the continuum of care. Mr. Blount builds relationships with key stakeholders to facilitate dialogue with leaders in the health IT community, ensuring the IPO, DoD, and VA is informed of emerging trends in health data interoperability. *Way to go, Mr. Blount!*

If you would like to contribute to *The IPO Bridge*, please contact *dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil*.