



Message From Our Leadership

Welcome to the tenth edition of the Department of Defense (DoD)/Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Interagency Program Office's (IPO) quarterly bulletin, *The IPO Bridge*! This issue comes at an exciting time for our team, as we continue our collaborative efforts with standards development organizations and private and public partners to further enhance health data interoperability and transform the delivery of healthcare for service members, veterans, and their families. As we progress into the next fiscal year, we look forward to collaborating with you, expanding our network of partners in health information technology (IT), and achieving our global interoperability and modernization goals.

If you have feedback or questions, please contact dha.ncr.peo-ipo.mbx.ipo@mail.mil.



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VA Establishes Dedicated Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization

In late June, VA established the Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization (OEHRM) to manage the preparation, deployment, and maintenance of its new electronic health record system and the health IT tools reliant on it. The organization is composed of technical and functional subject matter experts and will collaborate closely with the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Office of Information and Technology (OIT) to ensure the transition to the new EHR system is as smooth as possible for veterans, clinicians, and staff. OEHRM's aim is to design a system focused on quality, safety, and patient outcomes that will allow innovations to be implemented across VA's healthcare system. In light of this milestone, the IPO will continue to support the interoperability and modernization goals of the Departments to ensure our veterans and transitioning service members receive seamless healthcare. Click [here](#) for more information on OEHRM.



PEO DHMS Holds Media Roundtable

Last month at the 2018 Defense Health Information Technology Symposium, the Director of the Defense Health Agency (DHA), Vice Adm. Raquel Bono and Program Executive Officer of the Program Executive Office, Defense Healthcare Management Systems, Ms. Stacy Cummings, joined leadership from DHA, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Leidos Partnership for Defense Health for a media roundtable. Highlights of the roundtable included an update on MHS GENESIS, the Justification and Approval which brings the Coast Guard into the existing MHS GENESIS implementation, and establishing a common baseline with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Cummings shared the next facilities to deploy MHS GENESIS. These facilities include the U.S. Army Health Clinic Presidio of Monterey, Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB), Naval Air Station Lemoore, and Travis AFB. Last year, MHS GENESIS deployed at four initial fielding sites across the Pacific Northwest. The Department of Defense plans to fully deploy MHS GENESIS to 9.4 million beneficiaries and 205,000 medical personnel and staff by 2022. Click [here](#) for more information on MHS GENESIS.

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DoD/VA Interagency IT Steering Committee

On June 4, the Joint Executive Committee (JEC), co-chaired by the VA Deputy Secretary and the Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, formally established the DoD/VA Interagency IT Steering Committee. The DoD/VA Interagency IT Steering Committee is chartered by the DoD/VA Executive Committee (EXCOM) to ensure DoD and VA's technical alignment, planning, and implementation oversight of technical infrastructure and required solutions in order to meet the business needs of joint activities. As the Executive Secretariat of the committee, the IPO coordinates activities for the committees and workgroups such as charter development, issue escalation and resolution and group facilitation. The current work groups under the DoD/VA Interagency IT Steering Committee are Identity Management, Joint Engineering Architecture, Information Protection, Joint IT Operations, and Military Personnel Data. These workgroups will develop and implement a plan to ensure the seamless operation and transmission of military personnel data for use by the VA for healthcare, benefits, and added services.



IPO Presents at the AFMS Forum

In July, the IPO attended the Air Force Medical Service Digital Biobank Technical Exchange Forum, which focused on evaluating the clinical impact of research in genomics data. The event included experts in the precision medicine and genomics fields and facilitated discussions on lessons learned and recommendations for moving forward. During the event, the IPO shared its recent progress in facilitating the Departments' interoperability and modernization efforts and the IPO's accomplishments to identify, monitor, and approve standards for health data to ensure interoperability between the DoD, VA, and private health care providers. These efforts ensure the Departments remain at the forefront of emerging standards to improve and ensure a learning health system.



FY 18 IPO Strategic Offsite

The IPO held its Quarterly Strategic Offsite on July 16-17, during which the entire team discussed IPO's values, guiding principles, FY18 accomplishments to date, and strategized FY19 priorities and milestones. Featured speaker, Executive Director Office of Information and Technology at the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), Mr. Steve Posnack, spoke about ONC's latest efforts to increase nationwide interoperability and emphasized the importance of ongoing collaboration between the IPO and ONC.



Mr. Steven Posnack poses with Dr. Thompson at the IPO Strategic Offsite.



IPO staff members listen to proposed strategies for their FY19 Priorities & Milestones.

Please join us in congratulating Mr. Mark Bellezza, Program Specialist, as a recipient of the August 2018 Health Informatics Performance Spotlight award in recognition of his efforts to support our critical mission.



Calendar of Events



SEPTEMBER

- 20 Engineering & Architecture Work Group
- 21 JEC
- 27 HDS Quarterly JPS Workshop
- 29-5 HL7 Annual Plenary Work Group Meeting

OCTOBER

- 8-11 Cerner Health Conference
- 9 Benefits Executive Committee
- 14-16 Gartner Symposium/ITxpo
- 29 Joint Executive Committee

NOVEMBER

- 3-7 AMIA Annual Symposium
- 8 DoD/VA Interagency IT Steering Committee
- 14 Joint DoD/VA EHRM Coordination Meeting #7
- 15 EXCOM Briefing
- 20 DoD/VA IPO Industry Interoperability Roundtable

DECEMBER

- 4-6 FY19 Joint Legacy Viewer Summit

JALFHCC Collaboration Efforts

The IPO continues its collaboration efforts with government, private, and public partners to support national interoperability efforts, which includes the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (JALFHCC). To achieve the goal of ultimately integrating all medical care into a single federal healthcare facility with a shared mission across the VA and the U.S. Navy, the IPO facilitates dialogue between the joint venture site and the Departments to resolve outstanding health IT issues. To further support these efforts, the IPO hosts monthly JALFHCC Information Management/IT Executive Sessions and quarterly Advisory Board meetings with key departmental and organization leads from DoD, DHA, OIT, VHA, as well as the Joint Sharing Sites offices. The purpose of these events are to review priorities, action items, and risks identified by the JALFHCC technical and functional communities and other key stakeholders.



FY18 Core Technical Documents Released

This year, the IPO updated and released its three foundational technical guidance documents – the DoD/VA Joint Interoperability Strategic Plan (JISP), the Health Information Interoperability Technical Package (I2TP), and the Health Data Interoperability Management Plan (HDIMP). The JISP, released earlier this year, is based on the Departments' emerging modernization strategies and identifies agreed-upon interoperability use cases, as well as the technical vision, near-term deliverables, and long-term overview for the DoD and VA's EHR modernization plans. The I2TP, released in June, identifies the domain and messaging standards the Departments will implement to enhance interoperability and provides a list of the required standards to facilitate consistency in vocabulary and terminology. Lastly, the HDIMP, released this month, documents the IPO's organization and role to support health data exchange and terminology standardization, as well as the DoD and VA's interoperability management efforts. Contact us via our mailbox for a copy of these documents.



HL7's September Ballot Cycle

As a Benefactor Member of Health Level Seven® International (HL7®), the IPO harmonizes comments needed to improve standards between the DoD and VA during HL7's ballot cycles. This month, the IPO will participate in HL7's September ballot cycle, where HL7 is seeking input on standards which are in four stages of maturity: Normative, Informative, Draft Standard For Trial Use, and Comment. These ballots process and validate specifications for consideration as international standards. They provide detailed information regarding the implementation of an HL7 specification and the basis for proof-of-concept pilot projects for proposed standards. In addition, the ballots gather input from members on the viability and clarity of proposed content or requirements documents. The IPO continues to engage with DoD, VA, ONC and other agencies to ensure there is an active federal voice in the HL7 community. Click [here](#) for more information.



Meet Our Staff – Ms. Ayanna Bailey



Serving as the Collaboration Project Manager for the IPO's Interagency Coordination Division, Ms. Ayanna Bailey works as the liaison to OIT, VHA, PEO DHMS, various boards, and work groups empowered to promote interdepartmental collaboration and interoperability. She also serves as an IPO co-chair for the Interoperability Standards Documentation Change Control Board, ensuring the Departments' clinical data maps and Plan of Action and Milestones are analyzed, vetted, and approved for configuration management library intake. She is also the recipient of the Third Quarter 2018 VA OIT's Employee of the Quarter award for her superior performance in support of the VA mission and dedication to improve the delivery of healthcare to our nation's veterans. *Thank you for your hard work, Ms. Bailey!*



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