

**REPORT OF THE
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**Progress Report on a
Pilot Project for Developing
a Master Patient Index**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



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Project Status Report

Item 293 P.1 through 3 of the 2006 Appropriations Act directed the allocation of general fund monies to various activities that encourage the adoption of electronic health records throughout the Commonwealth. Item 293 P.2 specifically addresses the need to match private monies with state allocations to create a pilot project developing a Master Patient Index (MPI) system. A MPI system is a utility essential to identifying individual patient information across disparate provider groups. The MPI system is considered a significant catalyst to accelerate the development of Health Information Exchanges on a state, regional, or community level. The Governor's Electronic Health Records Task Force of 2005 recommended the creation and maintenance of a MPI system. The Virginia Department of Health was recommended to assume the lead on this project as it is uniquely positioned to provide management of this capability due to its experience with the relevant stakeholders.

In 2006 Governor Kaine established the Health Information Technology (IT) Council by Executive Order 29. The Health IT Council was charged with recommending the most innovative and effective investments to encourage the adoption of electronic health records throughout the Commonwealth. To that end, a Request for Information was issued for proposals for public-private partnerships to encourage Health IT development. Five proposals were submitted that would facilitate MPI systems. These proposals were referred to the Virginia Department of Health. These organizations are proposing systems that could be deployed in the healthcare setting but are also scalable to expand to other areas of state government. For example, a common client identification system could be utilized by education to track and analyze student performance. It could also be used to develop strategies to better coordinate multiple systems serving the same clients

The MPI system creation clearly requires a public-private partnership to be effective throughout the Commonwealth. Therefore, the Virginia Department of Health is working with members of the Governor's Health IT Council to solicit information on the creation of such a system. Research is currently being undertaken to determine the manner in which this information will be garnered. This could be either be through a Request for Proposals or a Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 process. In addition, the Spider utility used by the Virginia Department of Social Services is being reviewed for the possibility of expanding its capability to be used as a MPI. Any possible solicitations will be accomplished during the first calendar quarter of 2007.