

Update on HIMSS Government Relations Activities and Looking Towards the Minnesota Caucus

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Agenda

- **What is Advocacy and Public Policy?**
- **Background on HIMSS Advocacy Activities**
- **Current Advocacy Activities**
- **Prominent State HIT Activities, 2007**
- **Prominent National HIT Activities, 2007**
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- **Upcoming Caucus**
- **Questions**

Advocacy and Public Policy

Advocacy is the “ability to plead in favor of; support or urge by argument; recommend publicly”



Advocacy is the art of strategically leveraging the best that HIMSS has to offer to successfully influence public policy to improve healthcare for all.

Advocacy and Public Policy



Public Policy is a set of laws or regulations that results from the actions or lack of actions of governmental entities, decisions and non-decisions as it implies a very deliberate choice between alternatives.

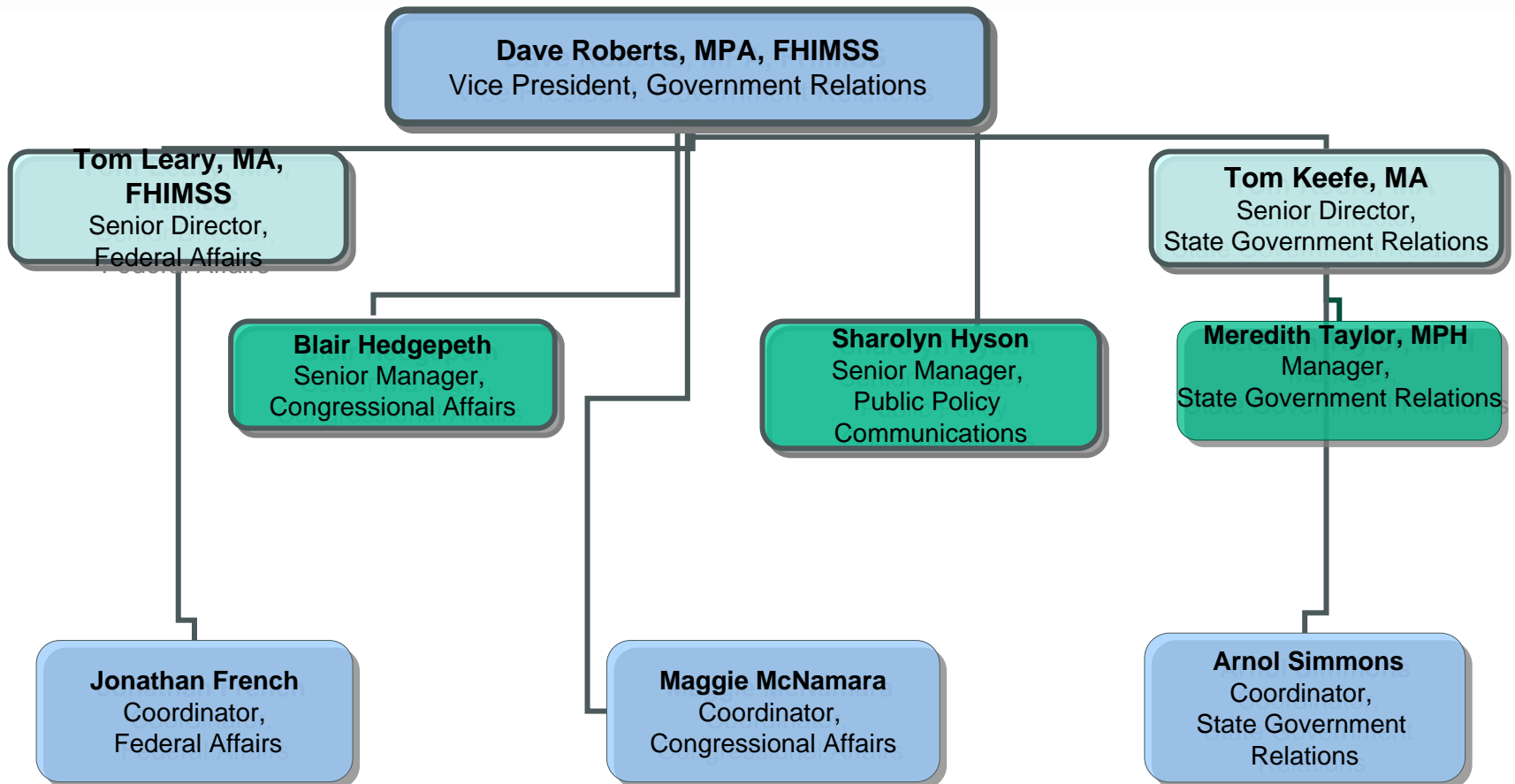
Background on HIMSS Advocacy Activities

- **February 1998** – Advocacy Task Force launched by HIMSS Board under direction of Board Vice Chair (Colonel) Rosemary Nelson to explore whether HIMSS should be involved in advocacy and public policy activities – Response to HIPAA
- **April 1998** – Advocacy Task Force report presented to HIMSS Board
- **February 2000** – HIMSS Board of Directors approved new advocacy initiated by a narrow margin
- **June 2002** – Dave Roberts appointed 2nd Advocacy Steering Cmte Chair
- **July 2002** – Dave Roberts hired as Advocacy consultant on part-time basis
- **August 2003** – Tom Leary hired as first full-time advocacy employee
- **April 2004** – HIMSS office opened in Alexandria, VA
- **July, 2004** – “Advocacy Committee” elevated to Steering Committee level, and renamed “Advocacy & Public Policy Steering Committee”
- **October 2005** – Tom Keefe hired as 1st Director of State Gov’t Relations
- **July 2006** – HIMSS advocacy budget surpasses \$1M and staff at 7 FTEs plus Manager of Public Policy Communications
- **January 2007** – HIMSS Arlington Office opens!

Background on HIMSS Advocacy Activities

- Board of Directors
- Advocacy & Public Policy Steering Committee (A&PPSC)
 - 14 voting members
 - 5 non-voting members
 - 5 Board Liaisons
- HIMSS Government Relations Roundtable (HGRR)
- Legislative Review Taskforce
- Chapter Advocacy Liaison Roundtable (CALR)
- Individual members and staff (including Member Relations)

Background on HIMSS Advocacy Activities



Current Advocacy Activities

HIMSS State Advocacy Activities

- Sponsoring discussions, visits, and briefings for State officials and their staff
- Facilitating State Advocacy Days
- Chapter Advocacy Liaison Roundtable (CALR)
- Events at US Annual Conference and Exhibition
- HIMSS State Government Membership

Current Advocacy Activities

HIMSS National Advocacy Activities

- Sponsoring discussions, visits, and briefings for federal/ congressional officials and their staff
- Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill (Established in April 2002)
- Public Policy Forum (Established in September 2003)
- National Health IT Week (Established in June 2006)
- Congressional Luncheon Seminar Series (HIMSS joined in 2003)
- Testimony opportunities/Collaborative Friday Group/Congressional Office Visits
- Events at US Annual Conference and Exhibition
- Advocacy and Public Policy Steering Committee
- Legislative Review Taskforce
- HIMSS Government Relations Roundtable

Prominent State HIT Activity 2007

- **Minnesota**
 - State mandated paperless health insurance claims, e-prescribing for state employees, and e-health records **for all Minnesotans by 2015.**
 - **Minnesota Health Information Exchange** scheduled to go live in 2008 (a statewide health information exchange among providers and payers throughout Minnesota)
- **Indiana**
 - Enacted legislation that establishes the **Health Informatics Corporation** to advise on health informatics activity throughout the state.
- **Virginia**
 - Enacted legislation that requires any electronic health records system or **software purchased by a state agency** to adhere to accepted standards for interoperability or to be certified by a recognized certification body.

Prominent National HIT Activity 2007

- Trial implementations of the **Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN)**, October 2007 awards
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC), **Rural Health Care Pilot Program**, November 2007 broadband telehealth grants
- **Legislation**
 - No significant legislative activity for 2007
 - For 2008?
 - S. 1693 (Wired for Health Care Quality Act)
 - H.R. 1467 (10,000 Trained by 2010)
 - S. 2408 (Medicare Electronic Medication and Safety Protection Act)

Outlook to 2008, State HIT Activity

- Building on Accomplishments from 2007
- Fiscal State of the States
- 3 New Governors
 - Governor Bobby Jindal, Louisiana
 - Governor Haley Barbour, Mississippi
 - Governor Steve Beshear, Kentucky
- State of the State Addresses

State Rational for Rapid Adoption of HIE and EHRs

- Reduction in the rate of medical cost inflation
- Improve quality of care
- Reduce medical errors and healthcare system inefficiency from duplication and patient safety issues
- Improves health system health care services integration
- Improve chronic illness management and case management effectiveness
- Enhances patient self management and compliance

Aligning around the importance of E-Health

- **GAO:**“HIT can yield benefits in clinical care and associated administrative functions as well as public health.”
- **Health Information Technology Leadership Panel:** “Widespread adoption of interoperable HIT should be top priority for the US health care system.”
- **President George W. Bush:** Called for the widespread adoption of interoperable electronic health records and electronic health information exchange within 10 years.
- **CMS:** Establishes national guidelines for Medicaid Information Technology Architecture to enable electronic health information exchange

State Alliance Health Information Communication and Data Exchange Taskforce

- The taskforce has made findings and recommendations in the following areas:
 - Leadership/Governance
 - Consumer's Role
 - Financial and Contributory Responsibility
 - Interoperability
 - Structure and Current Approach

What must States do to Lead Health System Transformation?

- Have a Vision
- Have a Plan
- Start the communication with others potential partners
- Develop effective public private collaborations
- Leverage your strengths and the strengths of others

Advocacy Tools and Resources

- *HIMSS Pulse on Public Policy*
- Fact Sheets and Position Statements
- Legislative Principles
- Legislative Action Center
- CRS Reports
- HIMSS State HIT Dashboard
- advocacy@himss.org

Upcoming Caucus

- February 5, 2008
- The Candidates and HIT

Minnesota Caucus

Feb. 5 at 7 p.m.

- The first step used by MN. Major political parties to select the candidates and issues they will support in the 2008 elections
- MN. 3 major political parties are the Democratic-Farmer-Labor, Independence and Republican parties

What do you do at a caucus?

- Elect delegates and alternates to attend the party's convention held later in the year to determine which candidates will receive the party's endorsement.
- Caucus attendees, led by the chair indicate their preferences for their party's presidential nomination, pick delegates to their county conventions and discuss party business, including their party platforms
- Caucuses also give voters the opportunity to voice their views on political issues, as well as a place for other candidates for elected office to build support
- Precinct caucuses are open to the public, but to participate in the caucus, you must be eligible to vote in the Nov. 4, 2008 state general election.
- MN. Caucuses are held in various locations across the state.
- Each caucus will elect a certain number of delegates, which they usually set based on voting results in that precinct for the party's candidates in previous state elections. The delegates elected on precinct caucus night will take part in the party's county or district convention, many of these delegates will continue on to the congressional, district and state conventions.

Upcoming Caucus

HIMSS HIT Policy Recommendations

1. Permanent status for the Office of the National Coordinator of Health IT
2. Full funding for all federal HIT Initiatives
3. Adoption Incentives and Reimbursement Methodologies
4. Interoperability Standards and Harmonization
5. Certification of EHR Products
6. Privacy and Security
7. Legal
8. Consumer Empowerment

HIMSS

transforming healthcare through IT

architects of change

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www.worldofhealthit.org

www.himss.org

National Health IT Week

Washington, D.C.

June 9-13, 2008

- **National Health IT Week 2008** is the leading forum for developing common ground to advance adoption of health information technologies transforming health and care in the US.
- The week brings together key health and care constituents—information technology and interconnectivity vendors, hospital and provider organizations, payers, pharmaceutical/biotech companies, government agencies, industry/professional associations, and consumer protection groups—in a unifying call for action.
- These stakeholders participate in National Health IT Week to strengthen alliances between private industry and the public sector in order to advance health IT adoption with “One Voice, One Vision.”
- **National Health IT Week 2008** coincides with several partner events, including HIMSS Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill—an event that connects participants with congressional leaders and their staffs for an open discussion on health and care issues.
- Working together, we will transform health and care for all. Please visit www.HealthITWeek.org for ongoing updates.

Questions

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