



NJ SHORE
Strategic HIPAA/Healthcare Organization & Regional Effort
c/o Thomas Edison State College
101 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608-1176

October 17, 2002

Ms. Kristin Becker
Director of SNIP
Kbecker@wedi.org
Fax: 703.391.2759

Dear Ms. Becker:

On behalf of the NJSHORE Steering Committee and our diverse group of members, I am delighted to submit to you our formal application for NJSHORE to be recognized by WEDI-SNIP as the Regional SNIP for New Jersey.

We are very excited about the opportunity to submit this application to you, and have been working since the summer to organize our group and define our mission. I've attached some additional information so that you may be aware of our activities as well as our membership. Though we follow in the footsteps of many of our successful predecessors, we believe we have much to offer New Jersey and the surrounding area in working towards HIPAA readiness.

Thank you for reviewing our application, should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Rosanna Dovgala

Rosanna Dovgala
NJSHORE Chair

Attached:

Application to WEDI-SNIP for RSA Status
Mission, Vision, and Bylaws
Press Release: 10/4/02
Minutes: 9/26/02 Meeting
Membership List

Contact Information:

Rosanna Dovgala
Sr. VP, Government Affairs
Armanti Financial Services
2 Broad Street
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
973.429.0044 x232

Appendix A - RSA Information

Please complete and forward to: Kristin Becker, Director of SNIP, kbecker@wedi.org, 703/391-2759 (fax).

1. Name of Proposed Regional WEDI SNIP Affiliate

New Jersey Strategic HIPAA/Healthcare Organization and Regional Effort (NJSHORE)

2. Primary Contact (Name, title, address, phone, fax, email)

Rosanna Dovgala -- CHAIR
Sr. Vice President, Government Affairs
Armanti Financial Services
2 Broad Street
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
email: rdovgala@armanti.com
fax: 973.429.1211
phone: 800.569.6814 x232

3. Secondary Contact (Name, title, address, phone, fax, email)

Joe Carr -- CO-CHAIR
CIO, New Jersey Hospital Association
760 Alexander Road, PO Box 1
Princeton, NJ 08543-001
609.275.4252
Jcarr@njha.com

Michele Romeo -- CO-CHAIR
Department of Human Services, DMAHS (Medicaid)
PO Box 712
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0712
609.588.4630
michele.romeo@dhs.state.nj.us

4. Primary Local, State or Region(s) covered

State of New Jersey

5. Meeting location(s) and time(s)

Thomas Edison State College
101 West State Street

Trenton, New Jersey
Contact: Mark Gordon, Director, Special Studies, 609.984.1756

Quarterly Meetings

6. Convening/facilitating organization

Thomas Edison State College
101 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey
Contact: Mark Gordon, Director, Special Studies, 609.984.1756

7. RSA Web site URL

WWW.NJSHORE.ORG

8. Key leadership contacts and organizations

Rosanna Dovgala
Sr. Vice President, Government Affairs
Armanti Financial Services
2 Broad Street
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
email: rdovgala@armanti.com
fax: 973.429.1211
phone: 800.569.6814 x232

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Department of Human Services, DMAHS (Medicaid)
PO Box 712
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0712
609.588.4630
michele.romeo@dhs.state.nj.us

9. Governance protocols

See Attached Draft By-Laws

10. Membership list (optional)

Some of NJSHORE's active members include: Thomas Edison State College, Armanti Financial Services, NJ Hospital Association, NJ Council on Teaching Hospitals, Carrier Clinic, NJ Medical Society, Primary Care Association, NJ Department of Banking and Insurance, NJ Department of Human Services, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield, Delta Dental, Amerigroup, Horizon Mercy, AmeriChoice, Carrier Clinic, and Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services.

11. 150 Word description of RSA's goals and objectives (as would appear in the WEDI SNIP Web Site). Please include a description of the HIPAA areas the RSA will cover (transactions and code sets, identifiers, security, privacy, other). If you do not intend to cover all of HIPAA areas, please describe how you foresee these areas being addressed in the region.

- NJSHORE -

Vision

The New Jersey Strategic HIPAA/Healthcare Organization and Regional Effort (NJSHORE) will bring together Garden State and surrounding regional healthcare industry stakeholders participating in an open forum working towards regional coordination of and compliance with HIPAA, NJ HINT, and applicable Federal and State healthcare laws and regulations. NJSHORE will increase and promote awareness and education and establish opportunities for collaboration, compilation of industry input, and documentation of "best practices."

Mission

The New Jersey Strategic HIPAA/Healthcare Organization & Regional Effort (NJSHORE) is established to meet the immediate need of statewide HIPAA Administrative Simplification implementation readiness. NJSHORE will also bring about statewide coordination for successful compliance with HIPAA, NJ HINT, and applicable Federal and State healthcare laws and regulations.

Specifically, our mission in addressing HIPAA, NJ HINT, and applicable Federal and State healthcare laws and regulations is to:

- Create a forum that encourages the necessary dialog among the state's healthcare implementers;
- Identify cross-industry coordination and document best practices;
- Foster and establish opportunities for collaboration;
- Foster statewide healthcare industry readiness;
- Identify and provide education and general awareness opportunities for regional health care stakeholders to access;

- Develop consensus among our membership and adopt recommendations that are in the best interest of the healthcare industry concerning initiatives that address the coordination that must exist within the State for all healthcare stakeholders;
- Coordinate efforts to both identify and resolve ambiguities related to implementation; and
- Outreach to national efforts to consolidate available information and dialog with industry task groups working towards resolution or next steps where there are interpretation issues or ambiguities.

12. List any products/resources that RSA feels are valuable to other WEDI SNIP regional affiliates. Include URLs as appropriate.

Not at this time.

13. RSA Listserv address(es) (if applicable).

Not at this time.

WEDI SNIP thanks you for your continued support. The WEDI SNIP Executive Steering Committee will review your Regional WEDI SNIP Affiliate application and may request additional information.

**NEW JERSEY STRATEGIC HIPAA/HEALTHCARE
ORGANIZATION & REGIONAL EFFORT
- NJSHORE -**

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The New Jersey Strategic HIPAA/Healthcare Organization and Regional Effort (NJSHORE) will bring together Garden State and surrounding regional healthcare industry stakeholders to participate in an open forum and work towards regional coordination of and compliance with HIPAA, NJ HINT, and applicable Federal and State healthcare laws and regulations. NJSHORE will increase and promote awareness and education and establish opportunities for collaboration, compilation of industry input, and documentation of “best practices.”

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BYLAWS of the New Jersey Strategic HIPAA/Healthcare Organization & Regional Effort
- NJSHORE –

ARTICLE ONE -- NAME and HEADQUARTERS

The name shall be the New Jersey Strategic HIPAA/Healthcare Organization & Regional Effort, hereafter referred to as NJSHORE. The headquarters office shall be at the Thomas Edison State College located in Trenton, New Jersey. Maintenance of records and coordination of activities shall be at NJSHORE, or at some other location as might be determined from time to time by the NJSHORE Steering Committee.

NJSHORE shall consist of three sections: the steering committee, sub-committee(s), and general participants. NJSHORE shall facilitate the statewide coordination efforts of healthcare entities in both the public and private sector to meet the requirements of HIPAA and other related healthcare regulations such as NJ HINT.

ARTICLE TWO – The VISION, MISSION, AND PURPOSE

Section 1: The Vision: The New Jersey Strategic HIPAA/Healthcare Organization and Regional Effort (NJSHORE) will bring together Garden State healthcare industry stakeholders participating in an open forum working towards regional coordination of and compliance with HIPAA and applicable Federal and State healthcare laws or regulations such as NJ HINT. NJSHORE will increase and promote awareness and education of HIPAA and applicable Federal and State healthcare laws or regulations such as NJ HINT, and establish opportunities for collaboration, compilation of industry input, and documentation of “best practices.”

Section 2: Accomplishment of Mission: The New Jersey Strategic HIPAA/Healthcare Organization & Regional Effort (NJSHORE) is established to meet the immediate need of assessing statewide HIPAA Administrative Simplification implementation readiness. It will also bring about statewide coordination for successful compliance with HIPAA and applicable Federal and State healthcare laws or regulations such as NJ HINT by all stakeholders in the New Jersey healthcare industry.

Specifically, our mission is to:

- Create a forum that encourages the necessary dialog among the state’s healthcare implementers of the HIPAA standards and procedures, as well as applicable Federal and State healthcare laws or regulations such as NJ HINT;
- Identify cross-industry coordination and document best practices;
- Foster and establish opportunities for collaboration to implement HIPAA as well as other applicable Federal and State healthcare laws or regulations such as NJ HINT;

- Facilitate statewide health-care industry readiness to implement the HIPAA standards, including the privacy, security, and transaction code sets, as well as other applicable Federal and State healthcare laws or regulations such as NJ HINT;
- Identify and provide education and general awareness opportunities for regional health care stakeholders to access;
- Develop consensus among our membership and adopt recommendations that are in the best interest of the healthcare industry concerning initiatives that address the coordination that must exist within the State for all healthcare stakeholders;
- Coordinate efforts to identify and resolve ambiguities related to HIPAA implementation, as well as applicable Federal and State healthcare laws or regulations such as NJ HINT; and
- Outreach to national efforts to consolidate available HIPAA information and dialog with industry task groups working towards resolution or next steps where there are interpretation issues or ambiguities.

ARTICLE THREE -- ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1: The NJSHORE Steering Committee Role: The role of The NJSHORE Steering Committee in the HIPAA (and other applicable State and Federal Healthcare laws and regulations such as HINT such as HINT) compliance process is to provide direction to:

1. Define the need and the availability of expert assistance for effective healthcare entity or industry participation in the HIPAA (and other applicable State and Federal Healthcare laws and regulations such as HINT) planning and implementation process.
2. Analyze HIPAA (and other applicable State and Federal Healthcare laws and regulations such as HINT) needs assessment data and other information required to assist in the coordination and dissemination of HIPAA (and other applicable State and Federal Healthcare laws and regulations such as HINT) information.
3. Guide the structure, direction and activities of NJSHORE.

Section 2: General Participants Role: The role of general members is to participate in The NJSHORE general meetings, subcommittees and workgroups and to assist NJSHORE in achieving its mission.

Section 3: Role of The NJSHORE Subcommittees and Workgroups: The role is to define technical assistance and capacity-building development needs for effective stakeholder participation in the HIPAA (and other applicable State and Federal Healthcare laws and regulations such as HINT such as HINT) process, and to analyze and share HIPAA (and other applicable State and Federal Healthcare laws and regulations such as HINT) information and resources, and coordinate HIPAA (and other applicable

State and Federal Healthcare laws and regulations such as HINT) readiness assessments for institutional and non institutional providers. Workgroups are created on an as needed basis to meet the needs of The NJSHORE as defined by the Steering Committee.

ARTICLE FOUR – STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER OR ALTERNATE

The NJSHORE membership shall include health care stakeholders located in the state of New Jersey, and with other healthcare stakeholders in the geographic boundaries of the state (Pennsylvania, New York and Delaware).

Section 1: Composition: The NJSHORE Steering Committee shall consist of not less than five (5) or more than fifteen (15) members. Representation shall include a cross-section of the New Jersey healthcare community. Each member may have one (1) alternate.

Section 2: Appointment and Removal: Nominations for membership are identified through a selection process in accordance with Article Four, Section 1. Each member and alternate's term shall be limited to two (2) years. Members and alternates may be appointed for additional terms. Initial terms begin with the adoption of these by-laws and ends at the end of the second following year. From that point forward, terms will begin on the second day of business at the January steering committee meeting and end on close of business of the first day of the January meeting two (2) years hence.

A removal from The NJSHORE may occur when: 1.) A member misses three (3) consecutive scheduled meetings without alternate representation, or 2.) There is good cause; Good cause is defined as but not limited to: a) the member moving outside of their representative area of expertise, b) not fulfilling the responsibilities as set forth by steering committee, c) a documented vote of no confidence, d) any other issues which are brought before the steering committee on a case-by-case basis. Removal of a steering committee member for any of the above-specified reasons shall take place upon a meeting of the steering committee in which a quorum constituting 51% of the voting members is present. All removals must pass with a 2/3rd majority vote of the steering committee members present. The alternate shall replace a member removed from The NJSHORE.

Section 3: Conflict of Interest Policy: Each member or alternate of the Steering Committee shall, upon installment, sign a Conflict of Interest Disclosure form, indicating the names of positions and offices held at the time of installation which may result in a conflict with The NJSHORE Steering Committee. Each Steering Committee member or alternate shall disclose any and all professional and/or personal affiliations with agencies that may benefit from Committee decisions. The Conflict of Interest Disclosure form must be updated on an annual basis at the beginning of each calendar year. No member or alternate of The NJSHORE Steering Committee shall be involved in the vote upon any question that may directly or indirectly result in financial gain to such member or a relative of such member. No member shall be involved in the vote upon any question before the Steering Committee when the obligations of such member to the Steering

Committee may, directly or indirectly, conflict with the obligations of such member imposed by reason of serving on the Governing Board of any other organization.

All actual or potential conflicts of interest shall be addressed in the following manner:

1. Any Steering Committee member or alternate, upon recognizing a potential conflict of interest, may request a review of the potential conflict by the Conflict Resolution Committee. During the review of the potential conflict of interest, the member or alternate should voluntarily excuse her/himself from all discussion, debate, or vote for which a conflict of interest could exist.
2. Any Steering Committee member or alternate, upon suspicion of a potential conflict of interest by another member or alternate, shall first approach said member or alternate regarding the concerns and ask them to voluntarily excuse her/himself from all discussion, debate, or vote for which a conflict of interest could exist. Such approaches should be presented and interpreted as a concern for the integrity of NJSHORE decisions and not as a personal or professional attack.
3. In the event that a resolution cannot be reached in the aforementioned situation, the Conflict Resolution Committee can be approached for a review of the potential conflict of interest. During the review of the potential conflict of interest, and if a conflict of interest is identified, the member or alternate should voluntarily excuse her/himself from all discussion, debate, or vote for which a conflict of interest could exist.
4. Failure to excuse oneself from any and all business relating to an identified conflict of interest may result in the suspension or removal of a Steering Committee member or alternate from the Committee.

Section 3A: Disclosure Statement Form: In order to further safeguard The NJSHORE's recommendations from possible conflict of interest, each steering committee member or alternate shall disclose any and all professional and/or personal affiliations. Within 30 days of request to complete the disclosure statement, all steering committee members and alternates are required to complete and submit the Conflict of Interest Disclosure form. All Disclosure forms shall be kept on file with The NJSHORE Chair and will be available for public inspection.

Section 4: Vacancies: Vacancies shall be filled as needed according to the procedures set forth in *Section 2* above.

Section 5: Chairs: The steering committee shall select one (1) Chair and two (2) Co-chairs. Both the Chair and Co-chairs share responsibility for guiding The NJSHORE in accomplishing its mission, goals and purpose.

ARTICLE FIVE -- GOVERNANCE OF MEETINGS

All business that may come before The NJSHORE shall be addressed with an open, consensus-building, decision-making process. Should informed consensus-building activities fail to facilitate the effective conduct of any business at hand, The NJSHORE

Chair and Co-chairs may elect to conduct a meeting, or any part thereof, according to the procedures established in Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 1: Schedule of Meetings: The steering committee shall meet face-to-face, as needed, to conduct regular business. Should there be no business to be addressed by The NJSHORE, the Chair and Co-chairs may postpone or cancel a scheduled meeting with the advanced notification to The NJSHORE steering committee membership. The steering committee shall conduct telephone conference calls at least once per month.

Section 2: Meeting Venues: Meetings of the steering committee and/or sub-committees may be conducted at a central or remote location or may be conducted by audio or audio/video teleconference. The Chair and the Co-Chairs shall arrange the meeting venue.

Section 3: Attendance: Attendance at all The NJSHORE meetings shall be recorded by The NJSHORE Recorder. A recording device may be used as well.

Section 4: Agenda: Each NJSHORE meeting agenda shall be determined by The NJSHORE Chair and Co-chairs with the input of The NJSHORE steering committee and/or alternates, and the general NJSHORE membership.

Section 5: Open to the Public: The NJSHORE meetings shall be open to the public and there will be open forum for discussions by any interested party. However, non-NJSHORE members will not have input into the NJSHORE decision-making process. Executive sessions shall be closed to the public.

Section 6: Decision-making: The decisions of the steering committee shall be based primarily on consensus. Should the steering committee members fail to reach consensus within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the Chair and Co-chairs, the Chair and Co-chairs may call a simple majority vote of all present steering committee members. A quorum will exist when 51% or more of the voting members are present.

Section 7: Emergency Meetings: Meetings to address urgent business shall be called, as needed, by the Chair and Co-chairs. All such urgent business and the process by which decisions are reached must be fully and completely documented and submitted to The NJSHORE for review at the next regularly-scheduled meeting or conference call.

Section 8: Meeting Notification: Notification of meetings shall be given at least 14 days before a meeting is to be held whenever possible. Notification of meetings and other information pertaining to The NJSHORE shall be emailed directly to The NJSHORE members and posted on The NJSHORE website.

ARTICLE SIX – GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES, SUBCOMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS

Section 1: General: Governance committees shall be formed to address the following:

1. 1) The nomination's process and criteria for membership on The NJSHORE; 2) conflict resolution; and 3) bylaws for The NJSHORE. Each committee shall have its own formalized structure, consisting at a minimum of the following positions: one (1) Committee Chair and one (1) Co-chair.
2. The NJSHORE Chair and Co-Chairs shall appoint time-limited workgroups on an as-needed basis. Each member of the steering committee shall be an active participant of a minimum of one committee and/or one workgroup. Active participation is defined as attendance of at least 50% of the scheduled meetings, whether held in person or by any other means, of the committee(s) or workgroup. Failure to participate on a committee or workgroup shall result in removal from the steering committee.

Section 2: Governance Committees: Governance committees shall consist of nominations and membership, conflict resolution and bylaws committees.

Section 2A: Nominations and Membership Committee: The Nominations and Membership Committee shall review the nominations of all steering committee members and alternates to The NJSHORE to ensure (1) qualifying interest and expertise, (2) appropriate representation of entities outlined in Article 4 Section 1, and (3) that no actual or potential conflict of interest exists. The Committee shall make recommendations to The NJSHORE Chair and Co-Chairs regarding the addition or deletion of members. Nominations for members shall be submitted to the Committee in the same manner as other members and alternates. The Nomination and Membership Committee shall submit the names of those individuals successfully completing the nomination process to the Chair and Co-Chairs for approval for membership on the steering committee. It shall be the responsibility of the Nomination and Membership Committee to ensure the completion of conflict of interest Disclosure Statement forms by all steering committee members and alternates at least annually, and to provide to the Chair all completed Disclosure Statement forms. The Nomination and Membership Committee shall be responsible for the prompt and complete review of all potential conflicts of interest or other disputes as might be brought before the committee by any steering committee member or alternate.

Section 2B: Conflict Resolution Committee: The Conflict Resolution Committee will be comprised of The NJSHORE Chair and Co-Chairs. They will recommend conflict and dispute resolution policy and procedures for addressing all situations of conflict within the steering committee.

Section 2C: Bylaws Committee: The Bylaws committee shall maintain the bylaws of The NJSHORE and assure that the bylaws provide an up-to-date guide to the function of The NJSHORE. Appointed members or alternates of the Bylaws Committee shall review the bylaws of The NJSHORE. Recommended changes shall be presented to the steering committee, thirty days prior to a vote, and changes to the bylaws shall occur only after

reaching consensus, or upon a minimum two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the present steering committee members or alternates.

ARTICLE SEVEN – REPRESENTATION OF NJSHORE

Each member of NJSHORE, steering committee, sub-committee(s), or general participant, is part of the process to coordinate, design and implement standards enabling those within the health care industry to comply with HIPAA or other applicable Federal or State regulations. However, no member has the individual authority to make NJSHORE policy. Unless specifically asked to do so by the steering committee, no member should make decisions or take action on any matters affecting NJSHORE, make new statements of policy, or state what he/she perceives to be NJSHORE's position on any issue that has not been considered by NJSHORE.

ARTICLE EIGHT -- RECORDS

The NJSHORE recorder shall keep minutes of all proceedings of the steering committee and other such records as may be required for the proper conduct of its business and affairs. Maximum use of electronic information exchange shall be encouraged. All records of NJSHORE will be maintained for five (5) years.

ARTICLE NINE-- AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the steering committee. Written notice of the proposed bylaws changes shall be transmitted to each member at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting. Bylaws changes require consensus or a minimum two-thirds (2/3)-majority vote of The NJSHORE members present.

ARTICLE TEN-- RATIFICATION

These bylaws shall go into effect upon consensus or a minimum two-thirds (2/3)-majority vote of the steering committee members present.

ARTICLE ELEVEN – DISSOLUTION

This NJSHORE has been formed to assist healthcare stakeholders to comply with requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and other applicable Federal and State laws or regulations such as NJ HINT. Unless The NJSHORE elects otherwise, and creates new bylaws, this NJSHORE will remain formed

for as long as the healthcare stakeholders deem necessary, and may be dissolved at any time by a minimum (2/3)-majority vote of the steering committee.

NJSHORE STEERING COMMITTEE
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

This statement is intended to comply with the policy of The NJSHORE Steering Committee relative to conflicts of interest and possible conflicts of interest. It is the policy of The NJSHORE Steering Committee that no member or alternate shall be involved in the deliberations or vote upon any question, which may directly or indirectly result in financial gain to such member or a relative of such member, or which affect the property or other interests of such member or a relative of such member. Furthermore, it is the policy of the Steering Committee that no member or alternate shall be involved in the deliberations or vote upon any question before the Steering Committee when the obligations of such member to Steering Committee may, directly or indirectly, conflict with the obligations of such member imposed by reason of serving on the Governing Board of any other organization by reason of employment or by reason of holding any other position of trust and confidence. In the event that a conflict of interest preventing a member or alternate from voting in accordance with the aforesaid policy shall arise, the member or alternate shall, in open meeting, declare to the Committee that a conflict of interest exists and that such member or alternate will abstain from voting.

In order to implement and carry forth the policy of The NJSHORE Steering Committee enumerated above, each member or alternate is required to complete and sign this statement indicating the names of positions and offices held at the time of installation, which may result in a conflict with the Steering Committee. With respect to the undersigned, the following is a complete and accurate list of current employers or the Governing Boards upon which the undersigned currently serves, and any other position or appointment involving a relationship of trust and confidence including elected and appointed offices.

The undersigned hereby agrees to furnish to The NJSHORE Steering Committee an updated Disclosure form upon the appointment of the undersigned to any office or in the event that the undersigned shall have a new or additional employer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned member of The NJSHORE Steering Committee hereby executes the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form and by so doing does agree to abide by all the terms and conditions contained in the Conflict of Interest Policy described above.

Signature

Date

Date of original completion: _____
Date update: _____
Date update: _____
Date update: _____



NJ SHORE
Strategic HIPAA/Healthcare Organization & Regional Effort
c/o Thomas Edison State College
101 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608-1176

HIPAA IS ON ITS WAY! NJSHORE HAS ARRIVED!

For Immediate Release
Friday, October 4, 2002

Press Contact: Rosanna Dovgala
973.429.0044 x232

(Trenton,NJ) - HIPAA -- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 -- is a federal law that, in part, seeks to ensure patient privacy, protect patient health information, standardize electronic healthcare transactions, and develop unique identifiers for patients, employers, and health plans. The first compliance date is just a few days away. **All "covered entities" -- providers, payers, and clearinghouses -- should file for a one-year extension by OCTOBER 15, 2002 under the transactions and code sets portion of HIPAA or be HIPAA-compliant by that time. An extension application can be filed via the CMS website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/>.**

"Because compliance dates are looming and HIPAA implementation will be a costly and difficult task, a collaborative, statewide effort to address issues surrounding HIPAA compliance has been formed," NJSHORE Chair Rosanna Dovgala said. NJSHORE -- New Jersey's Strategic HIPAA/Healthcare Organization and Regional Effort -- was officially organized last week at a meeting held by the all-volunteer group. This group is comprised of a diverse array of healthcare industry stakeholders from providers, payers, vendors, and governmental agencies.

NJSHORE will help address statewide HIPAA Administrative Simplification implementation readiness. NJSHORE will foster regional coordination of and compliance with HIPAA and applicable Federal and State healthcare laws or regulations such as NJ HINT. NJSHORE will increase and promote awareness and education of these laws, and establish opportunities for collaboration, compilation of industry input, and documentation of "best practices."

Some of NJSHORE's active members include: Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services, Thomas Edison State College, Armanti Financial Services, NJ Hospital Association, NJ Council on Teaching Hospitals, Carrier Clinic, NJ Medical Society, Primary Care Association of New Jersey, NJ Department of Banking and Insurance, NJ Department of Human Services, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield, Delta Dental Plan of NJ, Amerigroup, Horizon Mercy, AmeriChoice, and Strategic System Solutions.

Kelli M. Singleton, Health Information Specialist at the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) stated, "New Jersey's regional effort is an important part of helping the healthcare industry in New Jersey reach full compliance with HIPAA. NJSHORE will certainly be an important resource for the healthcare industry as we work towards compliance with both federal and state laws."

Page 2 - NJSHORE Press Release 10/04/02

NJSHORE is also submitting application to the nationally known WEDI-SNIP (Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange-Strategic National Implementation Process) organization to be officially recognized as the New Jersey regional effort for assisting in the HIPAA Implementation process.

Anyone interested in participating or learning more about NJSHORE should contact NJSHORE Chair, Rosanna Dovgala at rdovgala@armanti.com.

NJSHORE Membership (Please note that this list is not for public consumption and does not imply an endorsement by the listed organization of NJSHORE but rather that they are interested in participating, have participated, or serve on NJSHORE committees. Steering Committee members are in bold.)

Jason Anderman, Goodwin Procter

Vohn Austin, Keystone Mercy Health Plan

Adam Birnbaum, AMERIGROUP

Don Camisi, NJ Council on Teaching Hospitals

Joe Carr, New Jersey Hospital Association

Michael Chiofolo, NJ Department of Human Services

Pam Conrad, Information Services, Health Net

Tom Corrigan, Horizon Mercy

Kim Desmond, Independence Blue Cross Blue Shield

Lisa Dirska, Keystone Mercy Health Plan

Tom Dorner, Health Care Association of New Jersey

Rosanna Dovgala, Sr. VP, Government Affairs, Armanti Financial Services

Rob Farahani, Director, Info. Tech & Services, AmeriChoice of NY and NJ

Tom Fitzpatrick, 3 Penn Plaza East, Department PP-11C, Horizon Health Insurance

Patrick Gallagher, NJ Dept. of Human Services, DMAHS

Judy Gladney, CIO, AtlantiCare Health System

Rick Goldstein, New Jersey Council of Teaching Hospitals

Mark Gordon, Director, Special Studies, Thomas Edison State College

Kathy Grant-Davis, Executive Director, Primary Care Association

Colleen Grimes, AVP of HIPAA Compliance, AMERIGROUP

Alice Guttler, CentraState Healthcare System

Ruth Harris, Source One Medical Management

Suzanne Ianni, Hospital Alliance

Cynthia Korman, Strategic System Solutions

Paul Langevin, Health Care Association of New Jersey

Robert Lee, Sr. Network Analyst, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Carl Mattocks, CEO, CHECKMi Comendium

Lisa McIntosh, Source One Medical Management

Susan Mettlen, UMDNJ

Kaye Morrow, General Manager, AmeriChoice

Valerie Moses, Horizon Mercy

Mike Nudo, Armanti Financial Services

Bill O'Byrne, Dept. of Banking and Insurance

John Pepitone, Horizon Mercy

Brendan Peppard, NJ Association of Health Plans

Bob Perlitz,

Joe Peters, Director of MIS, University Health Plan

Nancy Pinkin, Representing NJ Council of Teaching Hospitals

Anne Quigg, Manager-Customer Support, Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ

Debbie Rexford, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center

Steve Reynolds, Chief Information Officer, Horizon Mercy
Michele Romeo, NJ Department of Human Services, DMAHS
Jeff Schmitz, AMERIGROUP
Rab Shafiq, Manager ISD, Carrier Clinic
Robert Sherman, Department of Human Services, DMAHS
Karen Sillitter, UMDNJ
Bruce Silverman, Sr. Vice President, Delta Dental
Kelli Singleton, CMS
Naida Sorken, AmeriChoice
Jill Squiers, Director, Health Planning, New Jersey Hospital Association
Carolyn Torre, New Jersey State Nurses Association
Steve Vreeland, Director of Reimbursement & Reporting, University Health Plan
Paul Weber, NJ Medical Society
Robert Woods, Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield
Jon Zimmerman, Vice President, e.Health, Siemens Health Services
Rudine Smith, COO, Corporate Compliance Officer, Plainfield Health Center
Martha Hemphill, Regional VP-Eastern Region, MediFAX
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Carolyn Kientz, Executive Director, Home Health Assembly of New Jersey
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