



**Software and Technology Vendors Association Hosts
Behavioral Health Interoperability Conference in Phoenix on January 26-28th**

For Immediate Release

(New York, NY – January 13, 2010) – The Software and Technology Vendors Association “SATVA” is hosting the first Behavioral Health Interoperability Conference with representatives from Mental Health Corporations of America “MHCA”, the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare “the National Council”, the medical community, the addiction community and other stakeholders of the behavioral sciences on January 26-28th in Phoenix, AZ. For the first time Stakeholders will collaborate with the shared goal of defining data needs and supporting technology for a Behavioral Health Continuity of Care Document (CCD) and assure rapid adoption of their final work. This document will support the exchange of relevant needed data among healthcare providers including behavioral health, substance use and medical providers that targets the “coordination and continuity of care”.

Attendees will also focus on relevant interoperability technology methods for a Behavioral Health extension to the CCD which is the framework for both HHS’ “Meaningful Use” requirements to receive the substantial HITECH funding and the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT) criterion.

The chairman of SATVA, Mr. John Raden (CEO of The Echo Group) stated “this extremely important undertaking for the behavioral sciences could not have occurred without the dedication the SATVA committee members, Bill Connors, MSW (President and CEO of Sequest Technologies, Inc.), John Leipold (CEO of Valley Hope Association) and Michael Morris (President and CEO of Anasazi Software, Inc.)”.

Expected Conference Outcome

The expected conference outcome is a proposal based on the “Meaningful Use” document that will extend the CCD to incorporate relevant behavioral health information. The result is a proposed revision to the CCD that can be presented to HL7 for adoption and that BH software vendors can use to guide their development efforts as a pro forma standard in the interim.

Key Stakeholders attending the meeting include:

Software and Technology Vendors Association Members & Their Clients

A large number of SATVA Members will be sending their CEO and/or CIO’s to this conference and many will bring their provider customers with them to effectively contribute to the proceedings.



National Council Representatives

The National Council has endorsed the goals of BH Interoperability and has committed attendance of both National Council staff and of representative members that are also leaders in the BH community and have similar experience with BH EHRs.

Mental Health Corporations of America

MHCA will be sending five executive level attendees that are recognized as both leaders in the BH community and are experienced with the implementation and successful use of EHRs.

Robert McClure M.D.

Dr. McClure is Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Apelon, a company that offers consulting services regarding medical terminology standards. He was one of the presenters at the SAMHSA Clinical e-Record Content Standards for Behavioral Health meeting. Dr. McClure understands and endorses SATVA's approach as an effective mechanism for developing a draft standard. Dr. McClure's expertise will assist in defining the data elements and a draft enhanced CCD structure.

Larry Gentilelo, M.D.

Dr. Gentilelo is a professor of surgery at University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and is a Director of the American Board of Addiction Medicine. Dr. Gentilelo brings an understanding of the integration of Substance Use, MH and other BH treatment information into an interoperability model that would transcend BH and to allow coordination of care between BH and medical providers. Dr. Gentilelo's expertise will be used to assure that the BH information being communicated will be useable for coordinating chronic and emergency medical care.

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