

SATVA demonstrates consent exchange for SAMHSA

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In January of last year the Software and Technology Vendors Association (SATVA) introduced an extremely advanced concept to our provider partnerships; SAMHSA, MHCA, the National Council and NAATP- a secure approach to interoperability of the continuity of care document (CCD). The powerful visual of this exchange yielded discussion on the extensive benefits of data sharing to improve care while adhering to all privacy and security requirements and in particular 42 CFR Part 2.

The SATVA Interoperability Workgroup included three member provider companies: Anasazi Software, Inc., Valley Hope Association and Sequest Technologies who listened to provider recommendations and mounted a yearlong research and design process to deliver to providers a protocol to exchange data in a compliant and secure manner. The workgroup travelled to Washington, DC on May 20, 2011 and met with Dr. Westley Clark, Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and members of SAMHSA that have been exploring data exchange, consent processes and other sensitive data restrictions.

The three hour session acknowledged the need to exchange data within the current federal and state laws and practice guidelines of our market. SATVA demonstrated and documented a solution that could enable behavioral health and addiction treatment providers to exchange data throughout the NHIN in manner that complies with 42 CFR Part 2 by supporting a standardized electronic consent delivered via the existing HITSP consent directives transaction. The presentation and a video of the consent exchange can be viewed at www.satva.org on the organization's homepage.

Dr. Clark and SAMHSA attendees appreciated the extensive research and efforts taken by workgroup members and felt the suggested protocol provided valuable contributions to their process to assist providers to exchange data. The contribution of SATVA will be discussed and considered in the ongoing discussions at SAMHSA.

The advancement of health information exchange (HIE) and the need to maintain confidential data are challenging topics. SATVA was the first to demonstrate that such exchange can happen between SATVA member software and we are confident SATVA will be a major contributor in the future advancement and adoption of software within the behavioral health market.

About SATVA: The Software and Technology Vendors' Association (SATVA) is a trade organization for vendors of behavioral health and human services software and information technology. Its members have a genuine concern for promoting the use of effective information technology in behavioral health and human services; helping to formulate and support quality improvement for the highest industry standards; and facilitating the delivery of more efficient and effective consumer services through use of information technology. SATVA members provide software that collects and transmits behavioral health data for a large portion of the behavioral health and addiction treatment providers across the United States.