

NJ Council for Teaching Hospitals Board Meeting
September 23, 2010
Remarks

Introduction

- First, I want to thank Council for Teaching Hospitals for inviting me...I am honored to be here...
- I am pleased to start a dialogue with your organization & your members that I hope will last my entire tenure as Commissioner.
- I want to thank you all for the high quality healthcare you provide to the state's residents. I know each of your hospitals is truly committed to ensuring access to care in our state and I thank you for your efforts.
- The work you are doing is so important. You are helping us as a state ensure that ALL our residents get the healthcare they need.

HIT Critical Link

- Key technologies: HIE Network Architecture and Design, Enterprise Master Patient Index (EMPI), Record Locator Service (RLS), ePrescribing, EHRs
- HIT will help realize health reform
- Portable patient data in real time
- Reduce redundancy & waste
- VA EMR 'Vista' system
- NJ awarded \$11.4 M in federal funds to work with 4 regional HIEs
- HIE Interim Report released July
- Implementation of statewide HIE this year

HIT Technology Users

- Connect key industries
- Each year, 1M people are injured by medical errors & 120K die as a result of those injuries
- 8th leading cause of death in US
- Preventable errors occur in 17.7% of hospital visits (Institute of Medicine report: "To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health Care System")

- Common reasons for medical mistakes: incomplete patient history, unavailable drug info, miscommunication & mislabeling, & environmental factors

Changing Physician Dynamics

- Doctor's goal is focused on doing their practice in the best possible way. They are here for what they need done.
- They feel the loss of this control because they are constantly accountable to the patients, family, pharmacy, MCO, hospitals, regulators etc. They feel a total lack of autonomy.
- Incomes are declining- eg, the ortho fees for joint replacement has decreased 34% in last 10 years.
- Medical staff is the blood line to a successful hospital organization which is weak.
- We don't understand the physician so we don't involve them constructively - resulting in less success in improving the relationship.

Regional Health Planning

- Based on Global Budget Projection Model, DHSS projects a reduction in Medicaid nursing home cost to be over \$138M in a four year period (FY 2009-2012)
- Sound public policy that is driven by data & effective strategies
- Result is improved care for older adults, younger persons with disabilities & their caregivers & enables them to remain in their homes & communities by avoiding spend down to Medicaid and expensive nursing home placement.
- DHSS will be closing measuring & setting benchmarks for this program moving forward

Supporting NJ Seniors

- St. Francis in Mercer County, Lourdes in Camden County & Lutheran Senior LIFE in Hudson County

Closing

- Looking forward to partnering together on delivering high quality care to all NJ residents
- ***“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”***