



CHARLIE CRIST  
GOVERNOR

THOMAS W. ARNOLD  
SECRETARY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 4, 2010

**Contact:** Tiffany Vause, Press Secretary  
[Tiffany.Vause@ahca.myflorida.com](mailto:Tiffany.Vause@ahca.myflorida.com), 850-412-3623

**FLORIDA AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION KICKS OFF FLORIDA HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE INITIATIVE**

*~Members of the health care community across the state met to discuss furthering health information exchange~*

**TALLAHASSEE** – The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency), in partnership with the Florida State University, College of Communication and Information (FSU), today hosted the Florida Health Information Exchange Kickoff Meeting. Health care stakeholders across the state convened in Tallahassee for the opportunity to discuss how to move health information exchange forward in Florida.

Dr. David Blumenthal, the National Coordinator for Health Information Exchange, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Laura Adams, Chair of the National eHealth Collaborative, provided their nationwide perspectives on health information exchange.

“The Agency is committed to improving health care quality through the expanded adoption of health information exchange and needed improvements in health information technology, but we know we cannot complete this important task alone,” said Agency Secretary Thomas W. Arnold. “Together, with Florida’s health care community, we can combine our efforts in order to assist health care providers across the state in realizing the goal of exchanging health care data electronically and thus improving care, reducing duplication and medical errors, and reducing costs.”

Discussion and input from today’s meeting with health care providers and consumers, regional health information organizations, medical associations, regional extension centers, government agencies and other stakeholders will be used by the Agency for the development and implementation of the Florida State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program and the state’s other health information exchange programs and activities.

The Agency’s goal is to implement a statewide health information exchange plan for Florida to address issues related to:

- Developing and improving the ability of health care providers to exchange health information,
- Ensuring adequate oversight of data sharing, and
- Supporting and measuring the meaningful use of health information exchange in order to improve coordination of care and public health.

Earlier this year, the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded the Agency \$20.7 million, over 4 years, to develop the technology and infrastructure to ensure that health care



providers can send and receive health information over a secure network with each other, within local communities, throughout the state, and eventually, across the nation. During the 2010 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature gave the Agency the authority to contract with an organization to be responsible for building the health information exchange infrastructure needed to enhance current and future efforts for Florida. The vendor will be selected through a competitive Invitation to Negotiate to be issued no later than July 15, 2010.

“Today’s event allowed us to gather input from health care stakeholders across the state to develop and implement a plan that will allow Florida’s health care providers the opportunity to deliver high-quality, better coordinated care with greater efficiency,” said Christine Nye, Director of the Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis, division of the Agency.

For more information and updates on Florida’s health information exchange initiatives, visit [AHCA.MyFlorida.com](http://AHCA.MyFlorida.com) and [FHIN.net](http://FHIN.net).

**###**

*The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida’s Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 41,000 health care facilities and 43 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics on [FloridaHealthFinder.gov](http://FloridaHealthFinder.gov). For more information, please visit [AHCA.MyFlorida.com](http://AHCA.MyFlorida.com).*