



# AIRA MONTHLY UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2017 IN REVIEW

## MONTHLY UPDATE AT A GLANCE

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## OCTOBER AT AIRA

- October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1 – 2 pm ET: **Joint Development & Implementation Advisory Workgroup Meeting**
- October 11<sup>th</sup>, 1 – 2 pm ET: **Standards & Interoperability Steering Committee (SISC) Meeting**
- October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2 – 3 pm ET: **HL7 Immunization User Group Meeting**
- October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2 – 3:30 pm ET: **AIRA Board Meeting**
- October 18<sup>th</sup>, 1 – 2 pm ET: **Education Steering Committee Meeting**
- October 18<sup>th</sup>, 3 – 4 pm ET: **WIR Joint Development & Implementation User Group Meeting**
- October 19<sup>th</sup>, 4 – 5 pm ET: **MIROW Steering Committee Meeting**
- October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4 – 5 pm ET: **Discovery Session**
- October 25<sup>th</sup>, 4 – 5 pm ET: **SISC Technical Workgroup Meeting**

## BABY ONBOARD! AIRA WELCOMES NEWEST ADDITION TO THE FAMILY



AIRA is excited to announce that Ketti Turcato, AIRA Program Manager, welcomed her son Mekhi earlier this month. The family is adjusting well and enjoying their time together.

## NEW! AIRA IIS DATA QUALITY RESOURCE AVAILABLE

AIRA is proud to announce that the new publication "[IIS Data Quality Practices – Monitoring and Evaluating Data Submissions](#)" has been recently released. This new resource for the IIS community focuses on the ongoing data monitoring and evaluation process for incoming data submissions. Topics covered include: a review of data quality indicators that may be used, methodologies for data quality review, a sample data quality monitoring and evaluation protocol, strategies for provider outreach and education around data quality, and implementation considerations. A webinar was conducted to present this material to the community. Slides and the recording for this webinar can be found [here](#).



AIRA would like to thank the jurisdictions and individuals that took the time to provide input into the development process. In addition, thank you to the AIRA Assessment Steering Committee for providing direction and support to this project.

*~Submitted by Nichole Lambrecht, AIRA*

## UPDATE ON MACAW MEASUREMENT AND IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

Thank you to everyone across the IIS Community who participated in the [Town Hall Meeting](#) on Voluntary Certification on August 31<sup>st</sup> and in the ensuing survey that gathered further input. The information shared is invaluable in helping [MACAW](#) (Measurement for Assessment and Certification Advisory Workgroup) craft their recommendations to the AIRA Board about the next steps for Measurement and Improvement. We heard from 57 individuals representing 44 jurisdictions, and the survey results demonstrate that a strong majority (61%) of the IIS Community is supportive of a move forward to Voluntary Certification. However, some concerns remain about Voluntary Certification's potential impact on less mature systems, so MACAW is working on adjusting the approach to incorporate community input and address these concerns. MACAW recommendations will be put forth to the AIRA Board of Directors in October. In the meantime, measurement for IIS assessment continues, and the most recent quarter's data will be published [here](#) soon.

For more information about Measurement and Improvement, visit the [AIRA website](#), or review your own IIS results on the [Aggregate Analysis Reporting Tool](#), or AART. Questions? Contact Nichole Lambrecht at [nlambrecht@immregistries.org](mailto:nlambrecht@immregistries.org).

*~Submitted by Mary Beth Kurilo, AIRA*



**AIRA 2017-2018 Members & Partners**  
Not Represented on the Map

**Gold Members**

- ◆ DXC Technology
- ◆ HLN Consulting, LLC

**Members**

*Affiliates*

- American Pharmacists Association Foundation
- Immunization Action Coalition
- Public Health Informatics Institute
- National Institute of Standards and Technology
- University of Michigan Child Health Evaluation & Research Unit
- Victorian Cytology Service Registries

*Individuals*

- Erin Roche
- Susan Kepsel
- Susan M. Salkowitz
- Therese Hoyle

**AIRA Partners**

*Presidential*



*Premier*




Meeting, voting benefits, use of an AIRA member logo, receipt of AIRA publications and access to member-only resources.

AIRA membership can be paid with a credit card over the phone, online or by check. If you wish to pay for membership via direct electronic deposit, please note AIRA’s bank information has changed; Amanda Dayton can help answer any questions you may have.

If you have questions or would like to receive a gold member invoice, please email Amanda Branham or call (202) 552-0189. We hope you will renew your AIRA membership soon!

## AIRA’S PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

AIRA’s Partnership Program offers an exceptional opportunity for anyone interested in further supporting AIRA’s mission and for organizations but not eligible to become an AIRA member. AIRA Partnership benefits include:

	Premier Partner	Presidential Partner
Discounted registration rates at AIRA meetings	3	6
Access to AIRA Partner Logo	◆	◆
Recognition on AIRA's website by partnership level	◆	◆
Receipt of AIRA publications including SnapShots and AIRA’s Monthly Update	◆	◆
Opportunity to submit partner updates in AIRA Monthly Update	◆	◆
<b>Total Cost</b>	\$1,500/year	\$2,500/year

Partnership runs October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018. All partners are subject to the AIRA Partnership Program Terms and Conditions. Contact Amanda Branham for more information. We hope you will become an AIRA partner today!

## TRAINING & EDUCATION PACKAGE AVAILABLE

To better serve the needs of our members, AIRA is offering a Training & Education Package to help continental U.S. IIS members attend the AIRA 2018 National Meeting. The AIRA Training Package will cover eligible expenses including meeting registration fees, hotel lodging, meals and incidentals, airfare, checked baggage, airport parking, and ground transportation costs.

All expenses will be covered in accordance with [AIRA's travel policies and procedures](#). If you are interested in purchasing this package or have any questions, please contact [Amanda Branham](#).

## AIRA STANDARDS TEAM MEETS IN PORTLAND, OR



On September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, the AIRA Standards Team met in Portland, OR to plan and strategize activities and initiatives regarding IIS assessment, voluntary certification, AART enhancements, technical assistance, and new projects rolling out in the coming months. AIRA staff who attended the meeting included Rebecca Coyle, Mary Beth Kurilo, Eric Larson, Nathan Bunker, Nichole Lambrecht, and Kevin Murset (AIRA technical consultant). When there was time to go outside, the team encountered falling ash from all the forest fires nearby.

*~Submitted by Nichole Lambrecht, AIRA*

## AIRA BOARD MEETS IN BURLINGTON, VT



The AIRA Board of Directors held a two-and-a-half-day meeting in early September in Burlington, Vermont. The meeting focused on board development as well as business and organizational updates. The in-person meeting provided a great opportunity for the board to discuss the agenda items at length to contribute guidance on current and future projects. For a team building activity, the board members, along with AIRA staff, were split into two groups and took on the challenge of escape rooms. Some escaped, some did not!

*~Submitted by Amanda Branham, AIRA*

## TESTIMONY AT THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR VITAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS HEARING

AIRA was one of several partner organizations invited to provide testimony to the National Committee for Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) in September in Washington, DC. The goal of the hearing was to inform the next generation of Vital Statistics systems. The guiding question explored at the hearing was:

*How do we transform today's vulnerable vital records data collection network into a network of state systems that produce accurate and timely information supporting a breadth of local, state and federal data needs?*

Rebecca Coyle and Mary Beth Kurilo attended to represent AIRA and the IIS community. AIRA was asked to address how the IIS community currently uses vital statistics data, as well as what challenges and solutions might be explored to strengthen this use.

The testimony provided was heavily informed by survey data gathered from AIRA members in response to a request for information sent out to the membership in August of this year. Thanks to excellent responses from our members, AIRA staff were able to share both the successes of our partnership with Vital Statistics, but also suggestions to strengthen this important Public Health relationship.

Much appreciation goes out to all the survey respondents that informed this testimony. More information on the NCVHS can be found [here](#).

*~Submitted by Mary Beth Kurilo, AIRA*

## AIRA'S WORK WITH SPAIN'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH



*Pictured, left to right: Rebecca Coyle (AIRA), Tarik Derrough (ECDC), Mary Beth Kurilo (AIRA), Irea Rodriguez Cobo (MoH Spain), M<sup>a</sup> del Mar Andreu Román (MoH Spain), Aurora Limia Sánchez (MoH, Spain)*

In September, AIRA was invited to participate in a technical working meeting with the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Spain, exploring the development of a national system across their many regional immunization registries. The aim of this meeting was to address different technical aspects of the development and implementation of an IIS in Spain. The meeting was organized by both the MoH and the European Centre of Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC), and included representatives from the MoH, ECDC, the MoH of Austria, and regional representatives from

Valencia, Catalonia, Castile and León.

Rebecca Coyle and Mary Beth Kurilo presented on the development of IIS in the U.S., and on AIRA's role in supporting our member organizations. Currently, an IIS exists in every one of Spain's 17 regions (or Autonomous Communities) and in two Autonomous Cities, but they lack a way to tie the data together and analyze it collectively. Each region supports its own design and functions, along with different coverage definitions. The previous and ongoing work leveraging standards across the U.S. IIS community was extremely relevant for Spain as they explore the development of uniform practices across their systems.

*~Submitted by Mary Beth Kurilo, AIRA*

## HL7 WORK GROUP MEETING UPDATE

Three times a year Health Level Seven (HL7) International convenes a working group meeting for HL7 expert volunteers. This meeting is an opportunity for work groups to make progress towards setting standards in a face-to-face meeting.

### FHIR Continues to Mature

The most striking theme of the meeting was how discussions around FHIR are now shaping nearly all projects HL7 is now undertaking. The FHIR work groups are now preparing for the first normative release of FHIR, currently labeled as FHIR R4. Previous versions of FHIR (R1, R2, R3) are for trial use only and subject to significant revision and improvement between releases. This is a significant milestone for FHIR and indicates that its use in the healthcare industry will increase dramatically in the coming years.

### HL7v2 Still Supported

Meanwhile work on current standards such as HL7 v2 and CDA continue to go forward. For certain domains, these standards will remain in use and will continue to be improved. The current effort at HL7 is focused on synchronizing vocabulary and conformance concepts between all the standards.

### PHER Work Group Renamed

The Public Health and Emergency Response (PHER) Work Group has been renamed as the Public Health Work Group. This change is part of a larger HL7 effort to rename, simplify and realign work groups to help new HL7 members better understand the purpose of each work group. This name change does not indicate a realignment of priorities from PHER but rather clear messaging that the group's core interest is public health.

### Immunization Roundtable Convened

Each meeting the Conformance Work Group convenes a roundtable discussion of those involved in projects in the immunization community.

- Craig Newman reported from the Public Health Work Group on the progress of the ballot reconciliation for HL7 2.8 immunization guide. Craig explained how the AIRA Standards and Interoperability Steering Committee (SISC) is discussing the comments and will be forwarding their recommendations to Public Health Work Group for final disposition.
- Floyd Eisenberg and Lori Fourquet presented on the progress of the EHR Certification Pilot. Their project is currently free to participants, has recruited four EHR vendors, and is working to coordinate process with ONC so that these vendors can qualify both for certification within the pilot project and with ONC.
- Nathan Bunker from AIRA gave update on progress of standards testing.
- Rob Snelick from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) gave an update on the progress of their testing tools.

### Next Meetings

The HL7 Work Group Meetings are held three times year, twice in the US. Those wishing to join the meeting should contact Eric Larson, Nathan Bunker or Craig Newman for orientation and help identifying the best meetings and work groups to attend.

*-Submitted by Nathan Bunker, AIRA*

## AIRA PARTNER UPDATE: PROFESSIONAL SOFTWARE FOR NURSES, INC.

### Leading the Way in K-12 Student Health

PSNI, the largest provider of K-12 School Electronic Health Records (EHRs), has partnered with [STC](#) to lead the way in integrating school health clinics with state immunization registries across the nation. School nurses help protect children from vaccine-preventable diseases, ultimately creating a healthier and better educated student population. With this best-in-breed partnership, K-12 public and private schools are now able to import vaccination records directly into their student EHR and manage all aspects of student health in a single location. Since 1992, PSNI has been helping to improve student health through innovative, HIPPA/FERPA compliant software solutions. To learn more, [click here](#).



Professional Software for Nurses, Inc.

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## SEPTEMBER RECAP

### Assessment Steering Committee

- On September 5<sup>th</sup>, the Assessment Steering Committee (ASC) met and received a Data Quality Assurance project update from Nathan Bunker as well as an update from Nichole Lambrecht on the Data Quality Project, Phases 2 and 3. The committee also reviewed feedback from the [webinar](#) hosted in August on the Addendum to the Analytic Guide and discussed holding a webinar to introduce the recently published guide, [Comparing and Communicating Vaccination Coverage Estimates from Immunization Information Systems \(IIS\), the National Immunization Survey \(NIS\), and Related Assessments](#).
- The ASC released the [IIS Data Quality Practices – Monitoring and Evaluating Data Submissions](#) document. Topics covered include: a review of data quality indicators that may be used, methodologies for data quality review, a sample data quality monitoring and evaluation protocol, strategies for provider outreach and education around data quality, and implementation considerations. The committee hosted a [webinar](#) on September 28<sup>th</sup> to introduce the guide.

- ASC's next Coverage Assessment Project will be centered on helping IIS and immunization program staff identify pockets of need in local area analyses to determine when to take action.

### **Standards and Interoperability Steering Committee**

- The Standards and Interoperability Steering Committee (SISC) met on September 6<sup>th</sup> and reviewed August's SISC Technical Workgroup's discussion on the Vocabulary Value Set Management Project. The committee also spent a significant amount of time reviewing the HL7 ballot comments on required LOINC codes in VXU and RSP messages and standardized error codes.
- The SISC Technical Workgroup met on September 27<sup>th</sup> and further reviewed ballot comments. The workgroup continued to discuss comments related to required LOINC codes.

### **Education Steering Committee**

- The Education Steering Committee (ESC) met on September 20<sup>th</sup> and received an update from the Public Health Informatics Institute's Informatics Academy. The committee reviewed evaluation results from the webinar hosted in late August on schools and childcare within the IIS. Looking ahead, the ESC also discussed webinar topics for the upcoming year and reviewed an outline of the education plan being developed based on 2017 Education Survey results.

### **MIROW Steering Committee**

- The MIROW Steering Committee (SC) met on September 21<sup>st</sup> to review action items and next steps that were a result of the in-person strategic planning session held in August. During the meeting, the MIROW SC developed new strategies for maintaining and sustaining the previous guides while moving forward with new topics.
- A draft implementation plan has been developed but will continue to be refined while working through some remaining discussion items. Once completed, the MIROW SC will present changes to the AIRA Board for approval. This implementation plan will help outline MIROW activities for the next year.
- The current topic, Consolidating Demographic Records and Vaccination Event Records, is rounding the corner on the design phase and is anticipated to be released in early October. A webinar is also being planned to introduce the content of the guide. More details to follow soon!