

**Resolution of the Board of Directors in Support of Health Information  
Technology**

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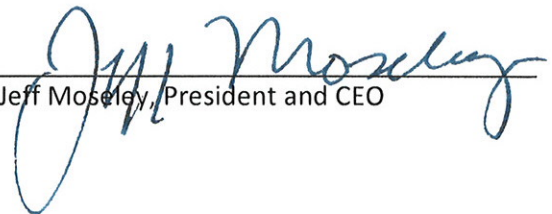
The Greater Houston Partnership supports policy that enhances health care quality and effectiveness for all patients. The health care sector should be supported by an infrastructure made up of interoperable, electronic health records composed of standardized, structured data elements that are exchanged among authorized health care organizations and providers across secure local and regional health information exchanges and statewide networks for state services, such as public health registries.

The Greater Houston Partnership supports the development of a “network of networks” model for Texas with a seamless electronic health information infrastructure to improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of the Texas health care sector while protecting individual privacy. The proposed framework and infrastructure should be integrated into existing technologies and services within many regions of Texas. By leveraging the proven technologies around the state, the cost to the citizens of the greater Houston region would be minimized and the efficiency of development would be significantly reduced.



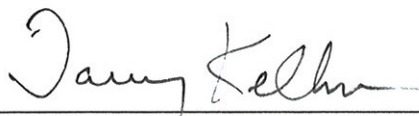
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Patrick Oxford, Chairman



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Jeff Moseley, President and CEO



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Larry Kellner, Secretary

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 6, 2010

**TO:** Greater Houston Partnership Board of Directors

**FROM:** Randy P. Giles, Chairman  
Health Care Policy Advisory Committee

**SUBJECT:** Resolution of the Board of Directors in Support of Health Information Technology

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### RECOMMENDATION

The Greater Houston Partnership supports policy that enhances health care quality and effectiveness for all patients. The health care sector should be supported by an infrastructure made up of interoperable, electronic health records composed of standardized, structured data elements that are exchanged among authorized health care organizations and providers across secure local and regional health information exchanges and statewide networks for state services such as public health registries.

The Greater Houston Partnership supports the development of a “network of networks” model for Texas with a seamless electronic health information infrastructure to improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of the Texas health care sector while protecting individual privacy. The proposed framework and infrastructure should be integrated into existing technologies and services within many regions of Texas. By leveraging the proven technologies around the state, the cost to the citizens of the greater Houston region would be minimized and the efficiency of development would be significantly reduced.

### BACKGROUND

Texas has an extensive and diverse need for health information technology. Health information technology provides an opportunity for patients and health care providers to manage a comprehensive system of secure, interoperable electronic medical records and data. It improves health care quality; prevents medical errors; increases health care delivery; reduces health care costs and administrative inefficiencies; and expands access to affordable care.

Health information technology improves health care quality by:

- Providing complete, accurate and searchable health information for health care providers when diagnosing conditions and treatments;
- Delivering health care more efficiently and conveniently without requiring unnecessary or repetitive tests and procedures;
- Reducing adverse events through improved understanding of patients' medical histories;
- Enhancing outcomes and reducing medical costs through early diagnoses;
- Giving patients access to secure personal health information consistent with applicable state and federal regulations;
- Allowing timely access to reliable medical information for health care providers;
- Increasing efficiencies related to administrative processes; and
- Improving data collection and community health information.

#### **LEGISLATION NEEDED**

The Greater Houston Partnership urges lawmakers to support legislative initiatives that build an infrastructure of secure electronic health information across local and regional health information exchanges and statewide networks to improve the quality, safety and efficiency of the health care industry in Texas.

The Greater Houston Partnership strongly advocates for the Houston region's health information exchange to receive 25 percent of the federal funding distributed to Texas for statewide health information technology implementation at the local level.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no direct fiscal impact to the Greater Houston Partnership.

#### **KNOWN OPPOSITION**

There is no known opposition to this initiative.

#### **RESOURCES REQUIRED**

This recommendation can be implemented with available Greater Houston Partnership staff and within current operating budget resources.