Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC) Champions 2009

Speakers Bureau

Electronic Health Information

HISPC Champions

Nancy Austin  
Director of Medical Records  
Nancy Austin leads the Medical Records Department and serves as Medical Staff Coordinator for the Washington County Regional Medical Center (WCRMC) in Sandersville, Georgia. A non-profit, joint commission accredited health care organization, the WCRMC is governed by the Hospital Authority.

Ms. Austin also serves as a Project Manager for the Georgia Health Information Exchange (HIE) pilot program in East Georgia. This initiative of the Georgia Department of Community Health, Office of Health Information Technology and Transparency, fosters the development of health information exchange (HIE), electronic prescribing, and adoption of electronic medical records across Georgia.

Ms. Austin’s experience in the health care field includes service as a floor nurse in a nursing home and in medicine and pediatrics in an acute care hospital. In addition, she has managed a physician’s office in internal medicine and worked as Utilization Review Coordinator.

Ms. Austin holds the Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) certification from the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

Ruth Carr  
General Counsel, DCH  
Ruth Carr has served the General Counsel’s Office in the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) as both Director of the Legal Services Unit and as the Ethics and Compliance Officer. She has rigorously monitored DCH and its vendors to ensure compliance with privacy and security of plan members. In 2007, DCH began a Privacy and Security Best Practices Initiative, including the development of enhanced policies and procedures on the transport of confidential information, incident responses and provisions for sanctions for contractors who fail to protect member information.

Ms. Carr created the architecture for DCH’s new ethics program including the implementation of policy and staff training. She also choreographed transition of the contracts administration to the Office of the General Counsel.

Ms. Carr’s diligence and devotion to DCH and to the people that we serve have earned her well-deserved recognition, including the honor of the General Counsel’s Office Employee of the Month.
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Jack M. Chapman, Jr., M.D.
Ophthalmologist

Jack M. Chapman, Jr., M.D., practices Ophthalmology in Gainesville, Georgia. He is a chemistry graduate of the University of Georgia. He holds the Doctor of Optometry degree from Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee, and the M.D. degree from the Medical College of Georgia.

Dr. Chapman exemplifies leadership and service on both state and local levels. He is an alumnus of Leadership Hall County. He is also Past President of the Hall County Medical Society and immediate Past-President of the Medical Association of Georgia. He serves on the Boards of Directors of the Georgia Medical Care Foundation and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Chapman also serves on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Partnership for TeleHealth and as President of the Board of Directors of the Hall County Medical Society’s Health Access Initiative. He is a member of the Healthcare Committee of the Greater Hall County Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Chamber Healthcare Committee.

Dr. Chapman is Vice-Chairman of the Health Information Technology and Transparency (HITT) Advisory Board of the Georgia Department of Community Health.

Alison Cline Earles, J.D.
General Counsel, DCH

Alison Cline Earles is an attorney for the Office of General Counsel, Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) in Atlanta. She is an honors graduate of Princeton University in Princeton, New Jersey, and the Duke University School of Law in Durham, North Carolina.

Attorney Earles’ legal experience includes providing training to governmental employers on HIPAA privacy and security compliance throughout Georgia. She has also served as lead counsel for HIPAA Privacy compliance for Fortune 500 private clients and governmental entities, including HealthBux, a wellness and technology company, which she owned. Her duties also encompassed analyzing obligations, drafting policies and procedures, and providing ongoing advice to privacy officers. In addition, she has developed and licensed narrated electronic learning modules on HIPAA Privacy and Security Compliance for self-insured health plans, insurance brokerages and associations.

Attorney Earles is a public speaker and trainer in the areas of health and wellness and HIPAA compliance as well as a published author.
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Gwendolyn L. Glover  
HIE Project Manager

Gwendolyn L. Glover manages the Chatham County Health Information Exchange (HIE) Pilot Program for the Georgia Department of Community Health, Office of Health Information Technology and Transparency. She holds an undergraduate degree in Business Administration from National-Louis University, a Master of Science degree in Urban Studies from Savannah State University, and an Associate degree in Business/Computer Science from Pace University.

Ms. Glover directs all aspects of the HIE Pilot Program. Her current duties include determining and directing processes to meet the goals and objectives of the HIE project; developing plans that specify aspects of project implementation including goals, strategy, staffing, and scheduling; identifying risks; and allocating available resources. She also administers budgets in coordination with the District Financial Administrator for the Chatham County Health Department.

Ms. Glover has a diverse professional background that is a unique combination of expertise in advocacy, entrepreneurship, urban planning, budget management, large-scale project management, and training. She has served as an Assistant Vice President of First Chicago Bank; Investment Representative for Edward Jones Investments; Financial Literacy Educator for Life Solutions; Economic Development Consultant for the City of Savannah; and Business Training and Outreach Coordinator for the Savannah Entrepreneurial Center.

Patricia Lavely  
CIO of the Memorial Health University Medical Center

Patricia Lavely is Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah. The Center is an award-winning academic healthcare facility serving a 35-county area in southeast Georgia and southern South Carolina.

Ms. Lavely is a business administration graduate of Shorter College in Rome and holds a Masters in Business Administration from Florida State University in Tallahassee. She is also a Certified Healthcare Executive and a Certified Professional in Healthcare Information Management.

Ms. Lavely’s major accomplishments at Memorial Health include shifting the culture of the information systems department to one of service and transparency; integrating the CIO into the business management and strategic decision making of the organization; and leading a community effort to develop a vision and securing funding for health information exchange.

Ms. Lavely currently serves as Chairperson of the Georgia Health Information Technology and Transparency Advisory Board. She is also a member of the Healthcare Information & Management Systems Society (HIMSS).
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James R. Morrow, Jr., M.D.
Physician, North Fulton Family Medicine

James R. Morrow, Jr., M.D. practices in and manages the Johns Creek office of North Fulton Family Medicine. He attended medical school at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and completed his residency in Family Medicine in Anderson, South Carolina in 1985.

Dr. Morrow was recognized as the 2006 Physician IT Leader of the Year by HIMSS at their Annual Conference in New Orleans in February, 2007.

Dr. Morrow serves as a commissioner to the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT) and has served HIMSS as a member of the Ambulatory Davies Selection Committee, the Ambulatory Information Systems Steering Committee, the Katrina’s Phoenix Task Force, and as chairman of the Practice Leadership Task Force. He also serves as HIT mentor to the Common Ground Clinic in the greater New Orleans area, a free clinic started post-Katrina to care for the indigent in that area.

Dr. Morrow serves on the board of directors of the Medical Association of Georgia’s Institute for Excellence, the Georgia HIMSS Chapter, and the Georgia Health Information Exchange.

Wayne Oliver
Project Director

Wayne Oliver serves as project director for the Center for Health Transformation (CHT), which was founded by former U.S. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. A native of Albany, Georgia, he earned dual undergraduate degrees in Political Science and Speech and Communication and a law degree from Mercer University.

Mr. Oliver’s entire career focus has been health care policy. He leads the CHT’s Health Justice and Right to Know projects and e-prescribing efforts in Georgia and works closely with the Georgia Project. Governor Sonny Perdue appointed him to the Georgia Commission on Men’s Health, which serves as a catalyst to promote and improve the quality of the physical, social and mental health of men in the state.

Mr. Oliver is a former lead lobbyist and chief spokesperson for the Georgia Pharmacy Association (GPhA). In addition, he served as the Managing Editor of the monthly magazine, Georgia Pharmacy Journal and directed the GPhA’s media and public relations efforts. A prolific writer, his articles on issues such as rural health care, professional liability, diabetes care and management, health care reform, Medicaid and health care financing, have been widely published in the Chicago Tribune, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Wall Street Journal, Health Data Management and MD News.
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Lawrence L. Sanders Jr., M.D.
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs
Dr. Lawrence L. Sanders Jr. practices internal medicine at the Morehouse School of Medicine. He earned an undergraduate degree in chemistry from Clemson University and is also a graduate of Vanderbilt University Medical School. He completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine. In addition, he holds a Master of Business Administration from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Sanders is responsible for assuring the alignment between clinical services and the education mission of the medical school. He believes that good health is the result of individuals, groups, organizations, neighborhoods and communities working to create the conditions in every neighborhood and community that give everyone an opportunity for good health.

Dr. Sanders is currently Chairman of the Board for the Georgia State Medical Association. His previous professional positions include service as Medical Director with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health; Physician Manager for Kaiser Permanete, Georgia Region; Deputy Director of the DeKalb County Board of Health; Medical Director for Managed Care at Grady Health System; and Medical Director at Southwest Hospital, Atlanta Georgia; President of the Atlanta Medical Association, Georgia State Medical Association, and as Speaker of the House of Delegates for the National Medical Association.

Joel Schuessler, JD
Attorney, Dekalb Medical
Joel A. Schuessler, J.D., is the Staff Attorney for Dekalb Medical in Decatur, Georgia. He is an honors scholar and graduate of Emory University School of Law in Atlanta and Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Attorney Schuessler counsels hospital administration and staff on legal matters related to the operation of a clinically integrated hospital system and other health care related activities. His current duties include a focus on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and other privacy regulations; federal and state fraud and abuse regulation; hospital licensure; employment issues for hospitals, physicians and other health care providers; and physician, pharmacy, and other health care provider practice regulation.

Attorney Schuessler is a published author on HIPAA and on negotiating effective technology contracts. He is a member of the Health Information Technology and Transparency Advisory Board for the Georgia Department of Community Health.
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**Herman Thompson**  
*Chief Information Officer (CIO)*

Herman Thompson is the Chief Information Officer (CIO) at East Georgia Healthcare Center, a Community Health Center (CHC) based in Swainsboro. In 2008, after years of planning under his direction, the Center went live with a full Electronic Medical Records system, e-Prescribing and a new Practice Management system.

Mr. Thompson’s professional 21-year IT career covers all facets of the computer/data management industry. His extensive background includes health information Technology, computer security and forensics, and graphic design and website development.

Mr. Thompson is a Certified Professional in Health Information Technology (CPHIT) and Certified Professional in Electronic Health Records (CPEHR). He was also one of 30 individuals chosen from the entire IT industry by Comptia to participate in the update/rewrite of the IT industry standard A+ certification exam.

Mr. Thompson currently serves on the Georgia Association for Primary Healthcare (GAPHC) MIS Committee, Chairman of the Georgia Healthcare Systems (GHS) EMR Committee and is the acting district CHC representative for DHR’s Bio-Terrorism Program.

**Dennis L White, MSIT**  
*CEO, Georgia Medical Care Foundation*

Dennis L. White is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Georgia Medical Care Foundation (GMCF). A physician-lead, non-profit organization, GMCF serves as the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for Georgia by working to assist medical professionals across settings in the delivery of quality health care.

Mr. White has extensive experience in contracting for the state and federal government. This experience includes operational and organizational development, as well as the implementation of large-scale technology projects. He has over 25 years of experience in financial, healthcare, and information technology.

Mr. White holds a Master of Science in Management of Information Technology from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Business Administration (Accounting) from Christian Brothers University (Memphis). He is currently working on a doctorate in Healthcare Administration at the Medical University of South Carolina.