Public Health Information Network (PHIN) Outbreak Management Systems: The Past, Present and Future of Outbreak Management

The first half of the workshop will introduce the goals and objectives of the future Outbreak Management Systems (OMS). The second half the workshop will be dedicated to explaining the use of ontological services in public health, specifically in electronic case and laboratory disease reporting, and promulgation of national health Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) initiatives.

Discussion will focus on the future governance, standards, enhancements and development of OMS. The audience will learn about CDC's vision to improve public health by enhancing research and practice through best practices related to efficient, effective, interoperable public health information systems.

8:00 - 8:45 Welcome and Introductions
8:45 - 10:00 Outbreak Management Systems
10:00 - 10:30 Break
10:30 - 2:15 OMS Business Requirements Gathering Session
12:15 - 1:30 Lunch (on your own)

CSTE Public Health Informatics: Public Health Ontology 101 and Electronic Laboratory Reporting Activities at the Federal, State and Local Levels

There is little knowledge about ontological services among epidemiologists and how they can be used in public health to support electronic information exchange. This is an important topic, especially as CSTE adapts to meet recommendations by the American Health Information Community to address electronic case reporting. CSTE has made recent revisions in its position statement template to improve the consistency and accuracy of information exchange, and the information gathered in the revised template will play a big role in the construction of a public health ontology.

The purpose of this program is to provide the audience with an overview of ontology and its application in the adapting world of electronic reporting. This will take the viewers beyond simple queries about what is reportable in a given health jurisdiction, and connect them to information with other relevant pieces like case definitions, report criteria, and disease specific data elements (including the appropriate LOINC and SNOMED codes). The middle presentation will examine a CDC pilot project to validate the content of incoming Tuberculosis case notifications to CDC. This will include an overview of the features to send alerts and errors to health jurisdictions in a consistent and timely manner. The final piece for this session will include a review of the CSTE and CDC vision statement to develop an ontological tool, which will involve an open discussion about the business and functional requirements to meet the needs of state and local epidemiologists.

Ontological Services for Public Health

1:30-2:00 - Public Health Ontology 101
2:00-2:30 - Validating Content for incoming Case Notifications: CDC's Tuberculosis Reasoner Tool
2:30-3:00 – CSTE and CDC Collaboration: A Review of the Vision Statement
3:00 - 3:30 Break

The audience will be asked to participate in an interactive meeting to discuss and provide feedback in the development of an ELR White Paper. The framework for this document will be structured to address every aspect implementing ELR, from programmatic to technical, and to identify best practices and available resources during each phase. The program will begin with a brief overview from CDC, including presentation of results from in a literature review of published ELR activities. This will be followed by personal accounts from state epidemiologists adapting to the electronic world of lab reporting and their perspectives on the ELR whitepaper. The meeting will then shift to discuss the framework for the whitepaper and gather input from the audience about the current construct. Finally, this will be capped with a presentation on the Texas health department experience to modify the BioSense data feed to provide ELR results to a state-based NEDSS compliant system.

ELR White Paper

3:30-4:00 - Overview of ELR White Paper and Working Group Perspectives
4:00-4:30 – Presentation of framework and activities
4:30-5:00 – Leveraging the BioSense Integrator to Send ELR Data for Disease Surveillance: Texas' Experience