

LEWIS AND CLARK INFORMATION EXCHANGE

From: Lewis And Clark Information Exchange
To: Senate Committee for Public Health and Welfare
Subject: Senate Bill 210
Date: 11 March 2013

Madam Chair and Committee Members,

Lewis And Clark Information Exchange (LACIE) would like to take this opportunity to express our comfort with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) absorbing the regulatory functions of the Kansas Health Information Exchange (KHIE). LACIE has had the privilege of working with both of these organizations for more than 2 years and would like to commend both of them for their professionalism and commitment to service.

LACIE supports the absorption of KHIE by KDHE for the following reasons:

1. Cost reduction: By KDHE taking over the regulatory functions the approved Health Information Organizations (HIOs) would not be burdened with financially supporting KHIE starting later this year. The estimated annual cost of supporting KHIE is over \$400,000 annually.
2. Outstanding working relationship with KDHE: LACIE has enjoyed an excellent relationship with KDHE since our initial work began to provide HIO services to both the acute and non-acute providers in Kansas. KDHE staff has done an outstanding job of providing leadership, direction and support to LACIE.
3. Subject matter experts: KDHE has the in house expertise with the state's Health Information Technology coordinator residing within this department, as well as in house technical expertise.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of KDHE absorbing the regulatory responsibilities of KHIE.

Respectfully,

Mike Dittmore RN, BS, eMBA
Executive Director
Lewis And Clark Information Exchange