



Meeting MINUTES

April 24, 2007 6:30pm

Health GIS
Committee

Health Committee Meeting

Meeting Location: Sioux City, IA @ 2007 Biennial IGIC Conference

Attendees:

Name	Organization	e-mail
Cutler, Brad	Midas Council of Governments	bacutler@gmail.com
Degroote, John	UNI	john.degroote@uni.edu
Geletta, Simon	DMU	sgeletta@dmu.edu
Heger, Tricia	Applied Data	tricia.heger@adc4gis.com
Hutler, Art	NewCom Technologies	ahutler@newcomtech.com
Kuehne, Herb	Sioux City Police Department	hkuehne@sioux-city.org
Lanclos, Ryan	ESRI	rlanclos@esri.com
LaRosa, Michael	Iowa Telecom	merc@iowatelecom.net
Seeger, Chris	ISU	cjseeger@iastate.edu
Soyemi, Kenneth	IDPH	ksoyemi@idph.state.ia.us
Swanson, Lisa	Black Hawk Co. Health Department	lswanson@co.black-hawk.ia.us

Agenda:

1. Charter Document
2. Online Forum
3. Resources
4. Open Discussion

Charter Document – The group was given a copy of the Charter document to review and at some point give feedback. The IGIC website also has a copy for downloading which is accessible at <http://www.iowagic.org/about/committee/health/health-gis-committee-charter/>

Online Forum - Lisa briefly talked about the current online forum based in Yahoo and opened the discussion about IGIC online forum issues. The cons of the Yahoo group can be made up if we customize the IGIC portal to meet our needs. Chris noted that one concern with the discussion part of the forum is the volumes of email generated and suggested that an RSS feed option could provide a way to keep members updated without inundating the inboxes. Brad offered to set up a list-serve dedicated to the health committee so that we can keep everyone informed as we work

out the details of the new forum. Lisa and Simon are compiling the list of interested persons to populate this first list-serve. The committee communications will then come from the IGIC list-serve. We will also be looking into what phone customizations will be useful to the health committee, such as discussion threads. Ultimately, the Yahoo group content and membership will be folded into the IGIC online forum we will have set up to meet our needs as a committee.

Health Data – Discussion about the need to mobilize our data and work through the “silos” of data that reside in various agencies and organizations because all of this data can be useful in a range of disciplines if integrated. The issues involved with compiling health gis data include protection of sensitive information, firewalls, mismatch of needs/uses of same datasets.

It was suggested that a starting point might be doing an inventory of the health gis data we have and then proceeding to some mechanism for integrating the data. We are interested in an inventory of data but also we need to know which datasets we could use but don't yet have (what are our data needs?). We will be using the RAMONA gis inventory. This site requires a background registration (listing your organization, location, etc) and then simplistic metadata about the GIS layers you have. There will be another communication via the igic-health list serve with more details about how the Health GIS committee will conduct the data inventory. In the meantime, committee members can register if they haven't already and get familiar with the RAMONA website.

- **IOWA GIS INVENTORY (RAMONA)**

<http://ia.gisinventory.net/>

Ramona is produced by the [National States' Geographic Information Council](#) (NSGIC) as a tool for states and their partners. Its primary purpose is to track the status of GIS in US state and local government to aid the planning and building of Spatial Data Infrastructures. Ramona is designed to work in concert with Geospatial One-Stop.

As a committee we need to put together a list of information with details about the sensitivity of the data, availability of the data and other metadata. It was proposed and generally accepted that a **1 month timeframe** should be adequate to expect members of this committee to inventory their own data. Not all of the data will be available and including a dataset on the inventory does not obligate the owner/originator of that dataset to any distribution.

There are several other sources we need to tap as we develop an inventory:

- State health statistics [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/health_statistics.asp#statistics]

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System [<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/brfss/default.asp>]
- Family and Community Information Tracking System [<http://facits.idph.state.ia.us/Main.asp>]
- Iowa Hospital Association <http://www.ihaonline.org/>
- Emergency Management Asset Inventories from various counties/regions in Iowa
- Health & Human Services
- Board of Education, physical education data – Greg Welk (ISU)?
- Comprehensive Assessment of Rural Health in Iowa (CARHI)
- Ag Health <http://www.aghealth.org/results.html>
- National Center for Health Statistics <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>

Concerning sensitive data; it is understood that some agencies have created and are maintaining datasets that are of a sensitive nature (medical information, disease incidence, etc) that cannot be shared. At the discretion of the contributor, the description of the dataset should include whether or not the data can be shared, whether summaries of data are available and other significant metadata about the set. The committee would like to put together as complete a picture of existing health GIS data as possible.

Ryan Lanclos of ESRI mentioned the health data model. The Health Data Model (HDM) is a collaborative project to develop a generic data model for health applications using ArcGIS. You can access more information about the HDM on the ESRI website

<http://support.esri.com/index.cfm?fa=downloads.dataModels.filteredGateway&dmid=34>

Simon mentioned the Health/GIS/Homeland Security meeting in Denver Colorado.

Open Discussion – What other groups should be made aware of this committee? The group brainstormed about various persons/agencies/subsets that we would like to see represented on the Health GIS Committee. These potential participants include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Food & Nutrition sector – (Chris has possible contact, Ruth Litchfield?)
- Child health
- Other University programs (Lisa will contact these)
 - Kelley Donham professor of occupational and environmental health at the University of Iowa's College of Public Health
 - Gerard Rushton <http://www.uiowa.edu/~geog/faculty/rushton.htm> (geography of health, spatial analysis of health)
- USDA - Ag Health

- Spread the word! As you work with your various colleagues and counter-parts, think of who would be an asset to the committee and let either Simon or Lisa know so we can get them involved.

Ryan made a point regarding the use of integrated datasets in the future. As a committee, the closer we get to a repository where there is open communication of data, the more we need to think about how shared data will be handled in an emergency situation. Replication “on the fly” (between state and county for example) needs to be timely and effective. A key to this process is having data sharing agreements in place before an emergency event for the sake of collaboration.

CAP Grant – Brad referred to the 2007 CAP grant “Planning for the Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure”. As a committee, we need to be involved and contribute on behalf of the needs and interests of the Health GIS committee.

CAP Grant details – <http://www.fgdc.gov/grants/2007CAP/Category3/IA>

IGIC Strategic Plan - http://www.iowagic.org/about/committee/bylaws/strategic-planning/2005/plan-drafts/igic_strategic_plan-version-3.pdf/view

As IGIC moves forward with the CAP grant process, the Health GIS committee will be expected to provide some input. As an official committee, we will be wise to familiarize ourselves with the CAP grant goals and the IGIC strategic plan so that we can have a good understanding of the Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure (IGI). As Jack Dangermond mentioned in his keynote address, the health gis sector is virtually untapped at this time. We are in a position to step up and make a difference in the State of Iowa!

Coming Events - Ryan mentioned that there is an [Urban and Regional Information Systems Association \(URISA\) conference](http://www.urisa.org/conferences/health) which is taking place May 20-23rd in New Orleans, LA. More information can be accessed about the conference at <http://www.urisa.org/conferences/health>

Kenneth mentioned the upcoming workshops offered at the University of Iowa called “**GIS and Public Health Workshop**” which takes place on May 21 – 22nd. The workshop will focus on geocoding, mapping, integration and analysis of environment and health data and measures of geographic access to health services. While the morning sessions will cover theoretical and conceptual aspects of these topics, the laboratory sessions will provide hands on experiences in implementing these topics using the state of the art GIS and spatial analytical software packages.

35 seats are available for morning and 19 for the afternoon laboratory sessions. Participants will be selected on first come first serve basis. More information and sign-up instructions can be found at <http://128.255.248.62/GISPubHealth/index.htm>. Contact Nancy Newkirk (TEL: 319.335.4756) nancy-newkirk@uiowa.edu to find out if there are still openings!

Next Meeting – It was agreed that next meeting will be over conference call. Herb Kuehne will check on IGIC's budget for conference calling, possible that we could use this line if there is coverage. Simon Geletta has a line too but is also watching the budget, we will determine how we can facilitate the call and meeting time/date will be announced via the list-serve.

Committee members should look for subsequent requests for participation in the meantime about the health data inventory effort.

Health Committee Resources

Iowa Geographic Information Council – Committee Pages

Resources Guide <http://www.iowagic.org/resources/health/>
Committee <http://www.iowagic.org/about/committee/health>

Forum – Health GIS users

Yahoo-based <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/iowaEHGIS/> (registration required)

Committee Contacts

Lisa Swanson, Public Health Officer (Black Hawk Co)
319.292.2202 office / 319.415.8930 cell
lswanson@co.black-hawk.ia.us

Simon Geletta, Des Moines University Public Health
515.271.1376 office
Simon.Geletta@dmu.edu