OpenELIS Monthly Community Call

January 8, 2014

- Steve Davis – Community member
- Reshma Kakkar- The St. John Group/OpenELIS Foundation
- Gary Jones – Director, OpenELIS Foundation
- Travis – University of Iowa
- Shondra Johnson – Missouri
- Tien Dang Han – GCS Vietnam
- Mark and James – ITSD Missouri
- Dari Shirazi – University of Iowa, OpenELIS Foundation

AGENDA

1. Roll call

2. Open discussion on 2014 plans for U.S. and Global users – All
   o Missouri (Shondra):
      i. Hoping that OE 2 will be implemented this year. Have not heard back after presentation.
      ii. Continue collaboration with Iowa on clinical development. That is going well. Good for lab folks to talk about their work flow as different labs are doing the same thing. Usually have between 5-6 people on the collaborative calls. Pretty good representation. Many of the clinical unit managers attend themselves or send representation. Immunology group, syphilis testing. Only area with no representation is Virology. Shondra will talk to them this week. PCR testing is attending. Rabies testing is being added. Shondra has asked that Iowa start by doing a walk through of a sample being brought in through the door and being reported out. This is important for clinical staff to see and get caught up on where Iowa is with their system. Still working through this.
      iii. Hoping that can get more interest in electronic ordering and reporting.
   o Iowa (Dari):
      i. Newborn screening slowed down as making decisions on forms especially blood collection form. This will affect the information entered into OE. For many years Iowa has not collected patient address. Now want to add complete patient address info. Some discussion on that as well as new fields. This has slowed down process. So focusing on some other stuff.
      ii. Picking up on clinical. Designing data entry screen for clinical. Travis is working on trying to be able to write specific code for each test. What that means is we can write special calculations, or associate specific software with each test. Working on framework so tests can be rather smart. Think it will take some time. Challenge is that how fast we need to make things so people don't have to wait a lot. Framework is challenging as have to write in java and then convert to javascript. Also working with Missouri on clinical. We have had 4 meetings. Have walked through what a test means, capabilities of OpenELIS, QA event,

basic structure of OE. Now in the process of discussing samples. Don't have as much progress as would like as sometimes conversation gets focused on one issue. Will probably take 3-4 months to go through this process.

    iii. Will need laboratories to think about how their want their tests defined in OE and how they want the tests to perform in OE. Process in OE is that anything that is reportable is also billable. This can be turned off if Missouri wants but has implications on Iowa side. Other long term thing is interface with clients. Don't want to re-negotiate interface with clients. Trying to create output from OE to match output with current clinical system so don't have to renegotiate interface. Tests need to be smarter. E.g. interpretation of results. Can either hard code or do it through scriplets. Advantage with scriplet is can be associated with any similar test. Will start building library over time that can be used by a group of tests.

- o Global (Reshma):
  - i. The OpenELIS Deployment and Maintenance Guide has been through several iterations. It is being published as a google site and is the result of collaboration between ITECH/Univ of Washington, GCS, APHL. The first phase is scheduled to be completed by the end of January and will be presented to CDC in February.
  - ii. ITECH is working on the global code base. Need to get the latest info from Bill Lober.
- o Primate Lab (Dari):
  - i. Significant progress, server is up.
  - ii. Dari worked with Travis to put several docs together that will be useful to Fresno and Primate Lab. Database that is being standardized now is Postgres. Iowa cannot support multiple databases. Infrastructure in Iowa is Informix. But if any other state wants to use OE, recommending Postgres. Working to make sure Postgres stays up to date. Others can do other databases but Iowa resources can only support Postgres. Putting documentation together about how to create database in Postgres. As get more labs interested in different databases, the columns, field types have to be managed.
  - iii. Primate lab would like to move to Oracle. They will have to re-write scripts and views. Most database calls from OE and J2EE are database neutral. But still need to make sure proper testing is done. We know everything works with Informix.
- o Fresno county (Dari):
  - i. They have set up servers and infrastructure including Postgres.
  - ii. Dari and team wrote documentation on configuring JBoss server, setting up database. Sent EAR file yesterday with all compiled code. Fresno can now put up Jboss, configure it, set up database, put EAR file in directory and everything should work. They should be able to quickly start playing with it.
  - iii. As time and resources allow they can get the source code and modify it e.g. logo on report, new reports. But we will need to have discussions with them on what changes are needed, how to organize it.
  - iv. Gary: need to coordinate changes so can be rolled into main branch. So when Iowa makes changes should be easily usable in Fresno and don't have to keep developing new changes.
  - v. Dari: hoping that having Travis in CA will be helpful to Fresno county and also to Primate Lab.

3. Open discussion on 2014 agenda items – All
   o Missouri (Shondra): Last call we talked about updates to website. Is that still planned? Gary confirmed this was still needed.
      i. Gary: Need to pull more lab folks in
      ii. Dari: It would be impossible to stand up OE without having better documentation. System is rather complex and if we want to deploy we need to be able to help people do more. So need to publish documentation on website.
      iii. Dari: May also need something like better practices for laboratories. Write down our experiences and processes so when next lab comes on board, they can have a smoother process. This comes from what was originally envisioned
      iv. Might make it easier for labs if we wrote some of the assumptions down and would be useful for others to read
      v. Shondra suggested turning these meetings into working meetings or document development meetings.
      vi. Dari: We have reasonable experience in data exchange – more than many other vendors. Many years of experience. Need ELR data for public health. There are not that many resources for people to go to for data exchange. Given that we are all struggling with same thing, if we had a larger community and did not have to figure out interface for everything, would not be as challenging.
      vii. Gary: We will focus on data exchange and instrument interfacing
      viii. Dari: We also need technical documentation. And we should tie this all together on the website.
      ix. Gary: look at VN guide as a starting point. It would be good to make this documentation available online
   o TSJG (Reshma): Need to focus on the governance process. The technical aspect as well as the policy/procedure aspect of making changes to the code, getting approval, validating the change and merging it back with main code base.
      i. Dari: Since this is open source, everyone is free to make the changes they want and the only thing we can do is refuse to take it in. The drawback of working with J2EE is that it is not a pluggable structure. So we can't produce something in it that can be set aside in a library that others can pull in. This might be possible only for certain things. Therefore our only option is to not accept the code or not accept the contributed code as part of main trunk.
      ii. Gary: We want to get to point where don't have lot of branches to main code. Want to be able to evaluate changes so it is useful to whole community. Branching off will be a waste of time. Need technical conversation for feasibility of change and how to make it work for all parties.
      iii. Reshma: We can put together an initial suggestion for the technical and process pieces and use the monthly calls to get feedback from community.
   o Dari: Need suggestions/discussion on how to grow the community base and get more labs involved.
      i. Gary: Need to follow up with APHL on round table possibility
      ii. Want more labs to know about us. Need to partner more with APHL to get our presence known better.
      iii. Need other kinds of marketing.

4. Other Discussion or questions - none