

***VITAL RECORDS IMPROVEMENT FUND
ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

To The New Hampshire Department of State

- MINUTES -

Friday

April 21, 2017

-MINUTES-

Vital Records Improvement Fund Advisory Committee Meeting

April 21, 2017

Archives & Records Building
2nd Floor Conference Room
71 South Fruit Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2410

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Scanlan, Deputy Secretary of State, SOS Appointment
Stephen M. Wurtz, State Registrar
Brian Burford, State Archivist
Tricia Piecuch, Nashua City Clerk, NHC&TC Association Appointment
Janice Bonenfant, Concord City Clerk, NHC&TC Association Appointment
Todd Rainier, Hooksett Town Clerk, NHC&TC Association Appointment
Peter Morin, Funeral Director Association Appointment
Brook Dupee, DHHS Appointment
Bruce Riddle, Data User, DHHS Appointment

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Timothy Horrigan, NH House of Representatives, Public Member, SOS Appointment
Nicole Bottai, Windham Town Clerk, NHC&TC Association Appointment
Erin Piazza, Health Information Specialist, NHHA Appointment
Thomas A. Andrew, MD, Medical Examiner Appointment
Theresa Pare-Curtis, OIT CIO Appointment
Ashley Conley, Municipal Data User, DHHS Appointment

GUESTS:

Daniel Cloutier, SOS IT
Christopher Bentzler, SOS IT
Jeff King, SOS IT
Catherine Cheney, SOS IT
David Laflamme, DHHS
Nicholl Marshall, Vital Records

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, and Introduction of Guests:

- Ms. Tricia Piecuch called the meeting to order at 09:32 with a quorum present.
- Ms. Piecuch asked the Committee to review the minutes of the October 13 meeting. Mr. Brian Burford made a motion to approve the minutes the March 25 meeting with modifications, seconded by Mr. Stephen Wurtz. Mr. Burford has about twenty or thirty corrections to be made to the minutes of the October 13 meeting. Ms. Piecuch said that since Mr. Burford has so many, Mr. Burford should get them in writing and present them to Mr. Wurtz and Mr. Nicholl Marshall. Mr. Burford said he would put them in writing. Mr. Burford withdrew his motion and Mr. Wurtz withdrew his second. Mr. Burford made motion to wait to approve the minutes and Mr. Wurtz seconded; a vote was taken and all were in favor.
- Ms. Piecuch introduced Dr. David Laflamme from the state Department of Health & Human Services. He is very involved with many things that come out of the NHVRIN system. Mr. Wurtz invited Dr. Laflamme to attend. Dr. Laflamme said that he is the state's maternal and child health epidemiologist. Dr. Laflamme uses the birth data set a lot, but he also uses the death records. He noted that one great improvement over time is how quickly the records are completed; with NHVRIN, it is only a matter of a few days before his department gets them. This can be really important when there is something going on which his department may investigate, such as maternal deaths or teen births. His department looks at early elective deliveries, working with other groups in the state and actually made good progress in changing the number of Caesareans and inductions happening too soon; DVRA was critical in being able to do that. A regional collaboration is coming where his department is getting assistance from the federal government to convene a regional meeting because some New Hampshire residents die out of state. His department eventually gets the records of New Hampshire residents who die out of state, but sometimes not all the details are available in order for his department to investigate maternal deaths; missing a couple of events can change the rate significantly, therefore they are looking at a regional approach with the appropriate agreements in place. Dr. Laflamme observed that the minutes of the last meeting were pretty technical at times. He was impressed with the functionality of Situational Surveillance, noting that New Hampshire was the only state to have it. He said what was actually discussed with DVRA was bidding with other companies about replacing NHVRIN years ago in the framework of quality improvement in hospitals. He was also impressed with how quickly Mr. Wurtz and DVRA could create Situational Surveillance.
- Mr. Wurtz replied that it was fun to create a better and efficient way to do things, and never had such a good team working on making such things happen; Mr.

Wurtz appreciates that Dr. Laflamme appreciates the turnaround. Now that DVRA has managed to automate the data going to the federal government, one of the processes DVRA will address is integrating the data received from the federal government into the electronic database; presently there is a lag of about a week or a fortnight while data entry occurs. Much of what DVRA has accomplished in the last year is due to a good team at DVRA but also due to the CDC who believes what DVRA can do.

- Dr. Laflamme said that while events in New Hampshire arrive quickly, it takes longer to receive out-of-state events, thus this may be an area of future improvement. The 2016 out-of-state births are pretty complete, but there are no April – December 2016 New Hampshire resident deaths for the surrounding states Maine, Massachusetts, and Vermont in the database as of this morning. Dr. Laflamme knows that this is a tough manual process and knows that Mr. Wurtz has thought a lot about how to streamline this process in the future. Mr. Wurtz responded that this relates to the bi-directional transfer of data with the federal government. If the federal government can send in-state coded records to DVRA, then the federal government, instead of the other state, could send out-of-state records to DVRA. Thus this could be another future project. If DVRA can send records to the CDC twice daily and the CDC is supposed to send it back to DVRA within a week, then CDC should talk to other states and they should be able to send the information back. Vermont is automated, but demands DVRA send them paper and they send paper to DVRA, even though society is becoming more paperless and Vermont sends an electronic file to the CDC.
- Dr. Laflamme said vital records data is critical to public health and Mr. Wurtz has been a great partner. Ms. Piecuch said to hear what Dr. Laflamme needs and the purposes for which he uses the data helps the Committee to understand the data. Dr. Brook Dupee added that he wanted to underline the importance of his department's relationship to DVRA; the vital records information collected is absolutely vital to public health and he much appreciates the 110% effort DVRA gives. Ms. Piecuch added that all are partners in it together.

2. VRIFAC Budget:

- Mr. David Scanlan said it is pretty much the same budget but the CNSI upgrade and technology expenditures is the big difference in the bottom line.
- Ms. Piecuch said that the balance indicates \$3.7 million while her understanding is the re-do of NHVRIN will cost \$2.7 million. Ms. Piecuch asked if the monies can be encumbered so that the state does not see it; Mr. Scanlan said that when money is tied up for a project, it is tagged that way, so if the legislature wants to look at it, they can see that a certain amount is committed. Ms. Piecuch said that the Committee wants transparency but wants to make clear which monies are marked; Mr. Scanlan said that the legislature is in the middle of the budget

discussion now and he has not heard any discussion or concern about the balance in the account.

- Ms. Piecuch observed that Transfers to DoIT still had balances on that line and asked what are the ties between DVRA and DoIT; Mr. Daniel Cloutier responded that DVRA uses the infrastructure of DoIT power, there are seven virtual servers for which DVRA pays every year, and DVRA still uses the data center, but the price has gone down.
- Mr. Burford made a motion to accept the budget as presented and Dr. Dupee seconded. A vote was taken; all were in favor.

3. IT Update - KFI:

- Ms. Piecuch directed the Committee's attention to the orange handout discussing the KFI project and press releases.
- Mr. Cloutier introduced Mr. Jeff King, the database administrator who is integral to the ability now extant, such as fast turnaround times. Mr. King has a good relationship with the database people who run the Oracle boxes. Yesterday, funeral directors were unable to send an electronic transmission, but a solution was created in the development environment, then in the UAT environment, then in the production environment all in the same day; Mr. Cloutier added that credit for much of that belongs to Mr. King.
- Mr. Bentzler said that eighteen months ago, DVRA began to bring electronically into NHVRIN about one million paper records. There were many times when it was said that something like this would never happen. DVRA was able to work with multiple vendors to get this project done, such as CNSI and Databank, who came here at the beginning of the project to scan all records to images and Databank keyed the records from the images (KFI). After that, DVRA worked with CNSI to take all of those records through numerous exception reports where the data records would not pass NHVRIN's edits, upon which DVRA would update many of those records in order for those records to get into the NHVRIN system, so that the received records would be in a format which would allow printing a certified copy of a record. Working with Mr. King, DoIT, and CNSI, the records were ready to be imported into NHVRIN. On March 29, the project was completed, although it took about three hours of downtime for NHVRIN in order for the data to be imported. Once the records were imported, those records going back to 1935 for births, 1960 for marriages, 1965 for deaths, and 1979 for divorces were available for any town office to issue. At this time, DVRA staff and information technology staff are working on projects which were known would have to be addressed. Some of these projects can be done quite effectively

because of the relationship with DoIT; for example, in one scenario, a data element was not correct, but the ODAR process resolved the issue for about ten thousand records within one or two days. Mr. Marshall and Ms. Wendy Kizer are integral parts of these tasks, which are now under DVRA control. Every day, the clerks and DVRA staff are noticing issues, such as misspellings of names, although in some cases it may have been misspelled on the record. But many times, pulling a record can be done from a computer instead of having to go into the vital records vault, thus saving time.

- Mr. Wurtz said that during yesterday afternoon, he received an emergency telephone call from the state senate floor asking for the year a representative died because they were working on a resolution. Mr. Wurtz asked what year and the caller responded it might be in the 1970's; Mr. Wurtz noted it was not a problem because he had all those records at his fingertips. Mr. Wurtz asked the caller for a surname and Mr. Wurtz was able to inform the caller of the death date because he was looking at the record; the caller thought it was incredible. Mr. Wurtz later heard over the telephone the caller yell the information at someone else. Mr. Wurtz did not have to leave his desk because within minutes the answer was obtained. Ms. Piecuch talked about a customer who came to her office yesterday because the customer did not have a REAL ID card and the passport agency would not accept the customer's driver's license. Now people are coming to Ms. Piecuch's office for this reason. The customer from Merrimack came to Nashua because that is where her marriage was, even though it was a 1989 marriage and could have obtained it in Merrimack; then the customer inquired if she could purchase her 1947 Manchester birth record while she was in Nashua and the customer was surprised that she did not have to go to Manchester. Ms. Piecuch emphasized that this is great customer service.
- Mr. Wurtz added that even though some NHVRIN users have observed some problems, there are still more problems. Mr. Marshall and Mr. King have their marching orders as to what problems to hunt. As Mr. Bentzler indicated earlier, town clerks find issues and pass them on to DVRA staff, Ms. Kizer in particular, and update the record. One issue being addressed now is the spelling of Hillsborough, Wolfboro, Moultonborough, etc.; through Mr. King, the problem could be fixed with a replace with the correct spelling. These are important things to get to the real quality of the data. Ms. Piecuch observed that there are birth records with the hospital name truncated, so DVRA can perform a global change; Mr. Wurtz said that one example of this is "Nashua Memorial Hosp"; a city clerk will type "Nashua Memorial Hospital" because that was the name of the facility, but Databank was instructed to key what they see because DVRA did not want Databank to make any interpretations on DVRA's behalf. Therefore there are

many records which now say “Nashua Memorial Hosp”. Mr. Wurtz said this does not invalidate the authenticity of the records, but DVRA knows better and shall do better.

- Dr. Bruce Riddle asked what happened to 1949 and 1950 birth records; Mr. Wurtz said it has to do with the integrity of the records. Back in 1949 and 1950, the records were placed in leather-bound books. When DVRA staff prepared the records to be scanned, a problem emerged as to what to do with the leather-bound books. DVRA would have had to cut the leather so that the document could be scanned, but Mr. Wurtz decided against this and leave the integrity of those records exactly as they are and DVRA will key those records directly into NHVRIN. Mr. Scanlan asked how long this is expected to take; Mr. Wurtz responded probably a year with the staff available. Mr. Wurtz speculated if he was wrong to not want to cut a book apart; Ms. Piecuch responded in the negative. Mr. Wurtz stands by his decision; Ms. Piecuch noted that there is a similar situation in her office with bound books and to take the original records out of such books is difficult to do. Mr. Wurtz reminded all that nearly one million records were imported, and the 1949 and 1950 births, which number approximately twenty-two thousand records, are not unavailable because they are still able to be entered into NHVRIN.

4. IT Update – NHVRINWeb 2.0:

- Mr. Chris Bentzler said NHVRINWeb 2.0 has been deployed into production and is now using the new version, however behind the scenes, a lot has changed. There is a new virtual server running the front-end application, while the front-end NHVRINWeb application has been updated to .net 3.5, whereas before it was at .net 1.1. The back-end has been completely removed from an Oracle back-end to a SQL back-end which is actually running under the Department of State’s control. It is still in a virtual environment but the Department of State is able to manage and maintain it, so to be able to manage and update the front-end and back-end are completely apart from DoIT’s control. Mr. Wurtz added that this is the pilot for how DVRA will manage its other databases.
- Mr. Bentzler continued that DVRA worked with the vendor, Mr. John Line, who built the original NHVRINWeb application, to perform this upgrade. Mr. King was a tremendous part of getting the database infrastructure migrated and communicating with the data warehouse. Search information for some years was unavailable but that has now been resolved. One can also perform a password reset instead of contacting DVRA to do it. There are more developments coming for NHVRINWeb, including same-gender marriages and population data.

- Mr. Wurtz added that NHVRINWeb is a public-facing tool for public research on statistical data, not identifying information. If nursing students are doing a project where they need birth rates, they can get the data themselves instead of calling DVRA. School districts use NHVRINWeb all the time for forecasting enrollment. When it was developed the first time, New Hampshire was the only state to have a public-facing research tool. From what has been heard from the research community, the research community appreciates this.
- Mr. Bentzler added that when the migration occurred, everyone's NHVRINWeb account was migrated. A huge part of this was not to have a disruption to the public for access to NHVRINWeb. Mr. Wurtz said that the vendor did a great job of making it work. There were 34,000 accounts with a user name and password, and users did not inundate DVRA with phone calls about passwords not working. Even though users now have the ability to reset their own passwords, DVRA learned a lesson there, and a new NHVRIN system will allow users to reset their passwords; this is no different than someone going to a bank's website and the user gets an e-mail containing a temporary passcode so a user can establish a new password.
- Mr. Cloutier asked Dr. Dupee and Dr. Riddle if they use NHVRINWeb; Dr. Dupee and Dr. Riddle responded in the negative. Mr. Cloutier said that anyone who logged on to NHVRINWeb on Monday would not have known that it was a new system because it looks identical to the old system except that there is a new button which allows a user to reset a password. Mr. Wurtz added that a disclaimer regarding population data has been removed.

5. IT Update – Printer/Toner Issues:

- Mr. Bentzler said DVRA provides toner cartridges to the towns. For a period of time, DVRA was having a difficult time with toner cartridges because the state mandated the use of recycled remanufactured toner cartridges; DVRA has gone through many vendors over the years to find something that works. The vendor now being used has been better recently. Since going to a new toner cartridge, there are less frequent instances where a cartridge is sent out to a town and the town calls DVRA to report a problem. DVRA incorporated a second tier of printers for the cities; the ones which perform much more work needed a printer with a higher duty cycle than the standard small size printer usually sent out. DVRA purchased another model, Laser Jet LJM201, which has a much higher capacity toner cartridge. DVRA also purchased some of the remanufactured cartridges at the time the printers were purchased to test the quality of the cartridges. The members of the DVRA front-end staff have been using the recycled toner cartridges and so far it has been a positive experience. Because of

that, DVRA has been deploying the large-scale printers to some cities such as Nashua, Keene, Dover, and Concord.

- Mr. Scanlan asked about the existence of any logs on the number of cartridges which failed; Ms. Piecuch answered that some failed and Mr. Todd Rainier answered that he had an old cartridge which was not refurbished. Mr. Scanlan said that it would be ideal to have hard numbers to present to the governor's office and demonstrate that the past executive order is not working but instead creating less efficiency. Ms. Piecuch said that the monies for toner cartridges do not come from the state's general fund but from the Vital Records Improvement Fund, and the towns and cities should not have recycled cartridges.
- Ms. Janice Bonenfant said the quality of the vital records her office was issuing was awful. Ms. Piecuch noted that when her office replaced a cartridge, the next cartridge inserted was just as bad, so her office kept more than one back-up. Ms. Bonenfant recalls taking other cartridges from other printers. Ms. Piecuch recalls purchasing a regular toner cartridge out of the city's money. Ms. Piecuch said that so far, the change to new cartridges has been like night and day. Ms. Bonenfant adds that it has made a big difference and hopes that all communities get new toner cartridges. Mr. Wurtz said at the beginning, documenting this issue was not done adequately.
- Dr. Riddle asked if third-party cartridges were tried; Mr. Bentzler said that is what these new cartridges are. Dr. Riddle said that on some office websites now, one can buy an original third-party cartridge for thirty percent less. Mr. Cloutier says it means one is not buying directly from the manufacturer – a cartridge is being sold by a third-party who found cartridges in bulk and is selling at a discount. Mr. Cloutier has purchased them personally and has had no problems.

6. IT Update – Oracle 12 Upgrade:

- Mr. Cloutier asked Mr. King to discuss the Oracle 12 upgrade; Mr. King responded that it was all done.
- Mr. Bentzler added that the Oracle 12 upgrade was initiated by DoIT. DVRA was running an older version of Oracle and DoIT wanted to move the Oracle database to the newest version so that there would not be tremendous costs for supporting multiple versions of Oracle. So Mr. King worked with DoIT to upgrade DVRA's Oracle environment. Issues were found upon upgrading the development environment, but the issues were resolved. When it was moved up to the UAT environment, more issues were found and resolved. When it was moved up to the production environment, everything was working well except for some add-on

parts which had unintended issues, such as the NHVRIN Files application, used to take birth and death data from NCHS, but NHVRIN Files stopped working for only one and a half days. There were also other issues regarding the tools used to access the data warehouse, so an Oracle client had to be upgraded on some of the DVRA staff machines, which took a few days. The major issue was the verification system used with the Social Security Administration to verify Social Security numbers on death records, so DVRA worked with CNSI to upgrade this. It was using Java and JBoss, tools with which DVRA was not familiar enough, and it took a week and a half to resolve the issue. As of now, the Oracle 12 upgrade has no other issues of which DVRA is aware.

- Ms. Piecuch said she believes the verification with Social Security never works because many of the corrections her office makes on death records are Social Security numbers. Mr. Wurtz responded that the verification system is completely automatic; when a Social Security number is put on a record, it goes to the Social Security Administration and returns with a message on the screen indicating pass or fail. Ms. Piecuch asked if the message could be flashing because the number of corrections her offices makes on Social Security numbers is ridiculous; Mr. Wurtz answered that it is an attempt for the Social Security Administration to obtain death information in a relatively timely fashion but the problem is if someone did not update one's Social Security account with one's married name, then the married name transmitted to the Social Security Administration is failing. The funeral director is unable to do anything about that. If there is a spelling error or a completely wrong Social Security number, the message should indicate failure, at which point the funeral director can tell the family that there was a problem validating the Social Security number. Mr. Wurtz said New Hampshire has a pass rate of about 95%, but that does not necessarily mean there is no problem with a given record. When a Social Security number is correct, a message appears stating that the record has already been sent to the Social Security Administration, but not necessarily validated. The validation DVRA uses was written by DVRA and CNSI, and New Hampshire was the first state to put that technology into its electronic death registration system. Other states use either New Hampshire's version or other versions as they have been updated.
- Dr. Riddle said Texas performed a study of Social Security numbers. There are a high percentage of Texans who have more than one Social Security number. Similarly, many people in Texas were using the same Social Security number. This is a national problem. Mr. Wurtz said that yesterday, he was contacted by an investigator from the US Department of State investigating Social Security issues and Mr. Wurtz is happy to report that New Hampshire was on the good list but

there were ten states that were absolutely terrible. The reason Mr. Wurtz received the call is because the investigator works out of the passport center in Newington and Mr. Wurtz explained the online verification system. The investigator said that sometimes there may be five migrant workers in a field and four of them will have the same Social Security number. The problem is rampant in Southern states. The investigator used New Hampshire as the knowledge base since New Hampshire has an exemplary rate.

7. IT Update – NHVRIN Training:

- Mr. Bentzler said NHVRIN training classes are still ongoing, with two more scheduled in May and June, so those who want to sign up can contact the business office.
- Ms. Piecuch asked if advanced training classes will return; Mr. Wurtz responded in the affirmative. There has been interest in an advanced class and it might happen in the fall. Ms. Piecuch asked if only clerks were having an advanced class or if funeral directors, hospitals, and other NHVRIN users were also invited; Mr. Bentzler replied only clerks were having the advanced class. Mr. Wurtz added that there is individual training for hospital staff where they come to the Archives & Records Building and have training with Mr. Marshall and his staff. If funeral directors need training, they are sent to Mr. Wurtz. Ms. Piecuch wanted to ensure that training is open to everyone.
- Mr. Burford asked if anyone on the Committee takes this instruction; no one responded. Mr. Wurtz said the training that occurs is geared for someone who has never used NHVRIN whatsoever; when they walk out, they are able to do their job. The advanced class is where seasoned NHVRIN users are shown the other capabilities of NHVRIN. Mr. Peter Morin added that when a funeral director's license lapses, the funeral director is required before reinstatement that the funeral director must have this training.

8. IT Update – Virtual Server Project:

- Ms. Piecuch asked if this is the same topic which Mr. Burford addressed in the previous meeting; Mr. Bentzler responded in the negative.
- Mr. Cloutier said that servers are being placed in a virtual world which is sitting at the DoIT data center. There is a new web server in the virtual world which DVRA staff now uses. The Department of State has bought a virtual environment for the annex. The next step toward NHVRIN*plus* is SQL 2016. Mr. King added that Mr. Burford's SQL server is in a virtual environment. Mr. Cloutier continued that going forward, it is important that those two environments are stable. Several

months from now, expenditures may have to be made for a smaller virtualized environment at the data center, so that DoIT is not needed for getting into those boxes and the Department of State is better for controlling the infrastructure of NHVRIN.

- Mr. Bentzler said that DVRA staff is using NHVRIN daily on this new virtual server. The goal is to set up a second virtual server so that it will mirror the current production environment which is now two physical servers that are load-balanced. Instead, there will be two virtual servers which are load-balanced, which eventually everyone will be using. That transition should be similar to the NHVRINWeb transition – the user will see nothing different but the back end will be on the new environment. Mr. Wurtz repeated that DVRA staff has been stressing the virtual server to ensure everything is operable before putting other users on it.
- Mr. Cloutier said some of the old hardware is out of date and out of warranty. They are old servers running on old operating systems and they have to be replaced physically.
- Ms. Piecuch asked if this will alleviate all of the reboots performed lately; Mr. Cloutier responded in the affirmative. Mr. Bentzler said that most recently there was an issue, not with the environment, but with the Oracle database server. Mr. Bentzler added that there has been more stability since the Oracle 12 upgrade where reboots need not be done so often. The upgrade has helped the front-end servers be slightly more efficient. Mr. Wurtz said it was first identified as a NHVRIN error and it was first addressed as a NHVRIN error, only to discover that it was not.

9. IT Update – VR-Search Program:

- Ms. Piecuch asked if this is the topic which Mr. Burford had addressed in the previous meeting; Mr. Bentzler responded in the affirmative.
- Mr. Bentzler said this program in its original state, an old R-based system 16-bit application, would not run in a Windows 7 64-bit operating system, so it had to be virtualized into Microsoft Virtual PC for Windows 7. When the operating system was changed to Windows 10, it had to be upgraded to Hyper-V. But when that was done, some capabilities, such as using the mouse and making the window a full screen, were lost. The workaround is that the user does not use a mouse, but that presents other challenges, such as scrolling improperly. Mr. Bentzler took the application into an Access database.

- Mr. King said that he had done this during the abstract project because records needed to be matched on the birth abstract, but it is the same R-based application. The static data is in an Access database, but the front-ends can be built for users to search. But Mr. King needs to have the data in a SQL server. Mr. Bentzler suggested that might run a little faster than an Access database.
- Mr. Bentzler said there is still more work to be done. Mr. Bentzler has a very basic solution for the front-end to perform simple searching, but still needs more work. Members of the front-end staff are using the new version, but one of the limitations is the birthdate search.
- Mr. Cloutier asked what data is housed in that old legacy; Mr. Wurtz responded the data is births, deaths, marriages, and divorces from 1948 to 1994.
- Mr. Burford asked if his staff in the research room needs the R-based application; Mr. Bentzler responded that some users are still using the old program. Mr. Wurtz added members of the front-end staff are testing it to see if it needs improvements. The new system does not have all the functionality of the old system; therefore DVRA is trying to perfect the new system, thereby replacing the R-base. Mr. Burford asked if there will be a KFI II going back to 1948; Mr. Wurtz said that may be a discussion for next year.

10. IT Update – Future of Legacy Record (key abstract):

- Mr. Wurtz said clerks now have access to birth records back to 1935. The question arises as to what to do with clerks who want to key a birth record older than 1935. Those records are so problematic. Mr. Wurtz asked Mr. King how many birth records are in the abstract table; Mr. King answered there are very few. Mr. Wurtz said one of the projects discussed is if that number is manageable. DVRA is committed to helping the customer.
- Ms. Piecuch added that clerks need the ability to key older records, but also understand Mr. Wurtz's position. Mr. Wurtz said that sometimes one record is in the abstract table half a dozen times because of different spellings. But if the number of older records in the abstract table is manageable, then Ms. Kizer and other staff can convert those records into the birth table and delete them from the abstract table. When a town/city clerk inputs a record, only the town/city clerk can see it; DVRA wants all the clerks to see the record, but it takes a little manipulation on the part of DVRA. But the focus of DVRA presently is KFI and completing everything on that to-do-list.
- Mr. Cloutier observed that DVRA has not removed the capability of town/city clerk to add an old record. Ms. Piecuch explained that the capability may be

removed if there is a low number of old birth records in the abstract table. Mr. Cloutier asked if an old birth record not in the abstract table was needed, would a clerk need to contact DVRA to enter the record; Ms. Piecuch responded that photocopying on safety paper was an option, but removing the town/city clerk's capability of entering a record may become a problem if the customer comes to the town/city clerk after DVRA closes for the day, thus DVRA entering the record would not be possible at that moment.

11. IT Update – SOSKB:

- Mr. Cloutier said the only thing preventing the shutting down of SOSKB is the monthly invoicing process. The entire website and the software program have migrated. Inquiries were made to the vendor who has been working on the Quick Start program within the Corporations Division, but not much since that first primary meeting has been accomplished. Mr. Cloutier had asked Mr. King if there is a way to look at the data files being transferred.
- Mr. King said SOSKB is building and sending the invoices, and the Department is relying on that functionality. Mr. King has figured out how to move the files and is regenerating the file on his end and putting it somewhere. On May 1, Mr. King will see the whole process work and has automated it so that everything should happen automatically. It will move the file and put it on the SOSKB server.
- Ms. Piecuch said when her office works on invoices each week, her office's invoices may say that her office owes as much as eleven thousand dollars. Mr. Cloutier asked if Ms. Piecuch is physically getting something from the system; Ms. Piecuch answered in the affirmative. Mr. King indicated that it was NHVRIN doing that. Mr. Bentzler said that it is an issue which was reported to CNSI because it happens periodically and other towns have reported it. Mr. Bentzler said the solution is to bring the record back up from pending searches and it shows the correct transaction, although it is not clear why it does not refresh the value properly. Mr. Wurtz said this has pestered DVRA and the towns/cities for a long time.
- Mr. Scanlan asked if SOSKB, the platform for billing and invoicing, is going away, what platform will DVRA use; Mr. Cloutier answered the matter is being researched now. Mr. Cloutier asked PCC in their building of the Quick Start financial module if they can separate the module and not just use it as a Corporations Division financial module, but a module that can be fed from the each of the Department's divisions so that Ms. Nancy Swett and the accounting team have just one place to balance everything. Mr. Scanlan asked if that is part of their current build; Mr. Cloutier responded in the negative. Mr. Cloutier added

that the basic foundation from that module exists. For DVRA, it is a little bigger because the clerks have a website where the clerks can request an adjustment and Mr. Wurtz makes the adjustments so that the actual invoice balances are known.

- Mr. Wurtz asked if there is an official change request to DVRA's vendor on this piece yet; Ms. Catherine Cheney answered in the negative. Mr. Wurtz knows that they have been doing some research. Mr. Cloutier said the piece for the clerks to have the website is a piece that CNSI could perform. Ms. Piecuch also speculated why CNSI could not do that work as part of the NHVRIN program.
- Mr. Scanlan suggested that this be moved up the priority list. Ms. Cheney acknowledged that this has been discussed often and it is time to get to look at exactly what the Corporations Division and the Securities Division are using. Ms. Piecuch said it needs to get done, but asked will there be a cost to do so; Mr. Wurtz answered that it would not need the Committee's approval because it is a correction request to upgrade that and it is handled in the maintenance contract. Ms. Piecuch asked if this will be done without CNSI; Mr. Cloutier clarified that CNSI will be a part of it. Mr. Wurtz said DVRA can upgrade it to a full change request at this point.

12. IT Update – STEVE 2.0:

- Mr. Wurtz said STEVE 2.0 is the new bi-directional application that allows states to transmit to and from CDC. It started in January but completely broke the automation DVRA already had in place with STEVE 1.0.
- Mr. Scanlan left at 10:59.
- Mr. Wurtz said STEVE stands for State & Territorial Exchange of Vital Events. This is the tool which will allow records to go directly into the database which will allow the state Department of Health & Human Services to have instant access to these records in the Enterprise Data Warehouse.
- Mr. Cloutier said it is now an external website not hosted by DVRA. Mr. Bentzler added the server which ran STEVE 1.0 is going to be repurposed as the second NHVRIN server.
- Mr. Wurtz said as technology improves, old hardware is being removed, and the future will be a cloud or a virtual server; Mr. Cloutier countered that a cloud is not an option. Mr. Wurtz said that STEVE 2.0 tried to take advantage of what was cutting edge for the time.

13. IT Update – NHVRIN*plus*:

- Mr. Cloutier said the reason it is called NHVRIN*plus* is it will be an update of the infrastructure, the back-end technology, and perhaps the look and feel of the current system. It is not starting brand new and it will not be similar to what was attempted in the NetSmart contract, namely replacing NHVRIN. Instead, this will be updating NHVRIN.
- Ms. Piecuch asked if Mr. Wurtz is going to have NHVRIN users involved in some enhancements; Mr. Wurtz answered in the affirmative. Mr. Wurtz added if a report needs to be generated and many data users need that report, it is easy for DVRA to make it a canned report.
- Mr. Wurtz said NHVRIN*plus* will have a SQL environment, which is more familiar to the Department's information technology staff, rather than an Oracle environment. Mr. Cloutier added that the underlying architectural creation of how the software components are going to be attached will be in a new type of programming where micro-services will be running which will allow enhancements to be made more quickly and more easily.
- Mr. Wurtz said Mr. Marshall is good about dealing with his Birth Data Quality group and if a report is not significant enough to make it a canned report then DVRA will generate it independently. Mr. Cloutier noted that this is a maintenance enhancement versus a brand-new build and he speculated if it is important to hold meetings with people. Ms. Piecuch said she relies on DVRA to enter an amended adoption because her staff is unable to do so. Ms. Piecuch also desires the ability to print a certified copy of a marriage immediately after entering officiant data and print a certified copy of birth immediately after entering an Affidavit of Paternity. Ms. Cheney said those are specific items and recommended providing such a list to DVRA now.
- Ms. Cheney said DVRA is taking NHVRIN from Oracle and moving it to SQL while DVRA will examine the data as it is being moved. Mr. Cloutier added that this will be a two-step process: first code the current NHVRIN functionality into the new tools in SQL without making too many changes to ensure it still works, secondly make more enhancements in NHVRIN*plus*. Ms. Cheney offered that it will be critical that the existing system transports normally because the way Oracle handles data is not the way SQL handles data. Ms. Piecuch understands that the move from Oracle to SQL must happen but wants to ensure that it is not only just the move; new enhancements are needed. Mr. Wurtz said he agrees with Ms. Piecuch and it will be done once that point is reached. Mr. Wurtz said that as always, DVRA will solicit NHVRIN users to see what has to be done. Both Mr.

Wurtz and Ms. Heather Bentley have trained on NHVRIN since the start, and both know shortcuts and improvements on certain things in the application they would like to see. Ms. Piecuch insists that all NHVRIN users must be consulted.

- Mr. Wurtz said that previous discussions on death enhancements included an export to mortuary ware so NHVRIN's information can be imported into a funeral director's software and vice versa, but a certain point must be reached before making enhancements. That is the difference between upgrading/rebuilding the system versus completely replacing the system. DVRA learned the hard way from the previous experience that wholesale replacement of an application will not work. NHVRIN continues to be a good platform, and when the back-end is rebuilt, then requests for enhancements can be entertained.
- Mr. Cloutier said the first module to be created is the security module, which is the log-in. This will take the form of designing a modern secure method of entering NHVRIN with password reset capabilities and challenge questions. Nowadays, more nefarious individuals are trying to break in, so that kind of encroachment must be discouraged.
- Mr. Cloutier said that the new system will have additional roles and more myopic capabilities so that if a town/city clerk or DVRA wants only a limited functionality for certain members of their staffs, that will be part of the enhancement, like ElectioNet now. Mr. Wurtz suggested this could be appropriate for part-time staff.
- Ms. Cheney said that the death module is next in NHVRIN*plus*. Ms. Piecuch asked what the time frame for the death module is; Ms. Cheney said the change request is comprehensive and completing the death module will take about a year. Ms. Cheney said the right technology must be used to move forward. Ms. Cheney believes that the conversion from Oracle to SQL will go fairly quickly, and then collaborations on changes may occur. The change request has not been signed yet, but a few meetings to go over the change request have been scheduled.
- Mr. Wurtz re-emphasized DVRA's commitment to go to the next generation of development; no one else is doing that. It will be built with FHIR and HL7 and the likes of Bootstrap and Cordova so that it is compatible on any device. FHIR now is part of about seventy percent of products in the medical community, and if FHIR (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources) is not incorporated, then NHVRIN will be rebuilt all over again five years later. Using FHIR will put New Hampshire ahead of other states because their vendors are looking to maintain the status quo.

- Dr. Riddle said his group, a contractor to the state Department of Health & Human Services, had to get reviewed from DoIT and they are picky about security details, asking for more than what Mr. Wurtz just described. Mr. Bentzler asked if DoIT is looking to implement new security standards; Dr. Dupee answered it is really the implementation of old standards, but agrees that enhanced security is an important part of how to do business and being compatible with medical developers is a great idea.
- Dr. Riddle said the Dartmouth College information technology security group finds the DoIT standards to be out of date and not helpful, therefore Dartmouth does not want to do what DoIT asked them to do. Everyone wants Dr. Riddle's professional environment to use HL7 but almost all hospitals are resistant to using HL7; one of the hospitals spent a fortune on a new EMR system and the hospital can not send an HL7 document.
- Mr. Wurtz responded that vendors are not bringing to facilities the advantages and disadvantages of what they are doing. To adopt HL7 or FHIR probably adds twenty-five percent to the contract, but that is twenty-five percent spent now, not one hundred percent again several years from now. FHIR is an integrated exchange engine that allows the standardization of data to cross platforms.
- Dr. Riddle said the big actor in this is called the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC). In the previous administration, the ONC was very powerful under CMS. The office remained under the new administration and people at CDC are holding their breath. Dr. Riddle is amazed at what hospitals are doing.
- Ms. Cheney said HL7 is going to be in this product since Mr. Wurtz was convinced it was important to incorporate HL7 into NHVRIN*plus*, so Ms. Cheney had asked the vendor what the vendor sensed the market saturation is and the vendor replied about seventy percent. DVRA received the white paper, which sounds like HL7 is needed. Mr. Wurtz added a nice house can not be built unless it has a firm foundation.
- Dr. Dupee said if a CMS-supported vendor wanted advanced payments, they must meet certain standards, which includes HL7, so it is surprising that any hospital is not compliant. Mr. Wurtz has read many news stories about facilities which have spent millions of dollars to find they are unable to go further without HL7. Dr. Riddle says that HL7 should be part of the new system, but there is enormous resistance from many hospitals in the state, and some of the smaller facilities are unable to obtain information technology staff.

- Mr. Wurtz said that it frightens old-time information technology people because they must learn something different. When Mr. Wurtz was showing some of DVRA technology to other states, other states' information technology staff are sometimes resistant because DVRA is using a language that they do not want to learn anymore, but he feels an obligation to build things in that direction. Mr. Wurtz is disappointed that some facilities did not adopt them, but standardization is starting to solidify. Mr. Wurtz has contacts at CDC who are also concerned about states not taking this direction.

14. CDC/NCHS/NAPHSIS meeting:

- Mr. Wurtz said eCOD is the electronic Certification Of Death module which DVRA created and is running VIEWS 2, a validation software from the CDC, and the first-in-the-nation Situational Surveillance tool. There has been a tremendous amount of publicity from all over the country and over the world since he has had conversations with medical examiners and hospital staff out of this country. Because CDC liked what DVRA did with eCOD, the CDC provided additional funding for DVRA to create national eCOD which has the capability for other states to configure it to their needs. DVRA has been paid to find another state to deploy eCOD as a pilot. Because of the attention eCOD has received, DVRA has been asked at the annual meeting of NAPHSIS (National Association of Public Health Services & Information Systems) to make four eCOD demonstrations to about five hundred people who will attend. Mr. Wurtz attends this meeting annually. When making such presentations in the past, Mr. Wurtz has someone from Mr. Cloutier's staff to assist him, so it was recommended that Mr. Wurtz bring someone with him to the NAPHSIS meeting to assist in the eCOD demonstrations. Therefore, Mr. Wurtz seeks travel money for another person to attend.
- Mr. Burford asked how much money this would cost; Mr. Wurtz responded approximately \$2000, depending on how long this person would stay. Mr. Wurtz intends to be there from Sunday night to Friday morning.
- Mr. Cloutier asked on which day the presentations would be; Mr. Wurtz answered Wednesday. Ms. Piecuch said that Mr. Wurtz's costs are already covered. Mr. Wurtz added that additional person is not budgeted.
- Dr. Riddle said that in his office, a travel budget is usually \$2400 per person. Mr. Wurtz is unaware if discounts are still available; the event is in June and Mr. Wurtz booked his travel arrangements in January. Mr. Wurtz will take the recommendation to Mr. Scanlan and ask for permission for funding to bring along someone.

- Mr. Cloutier asked what value does the information technology staff bring and would there be a benefit for more information technology staff to help explain to people who are not as technically oriented. Mr. Wurtz said that this is a significant opportunity. The agreement with the CDC is that DVRA's mission is to build this app and give it away. This will be the one piece of software that will make a difference in death registration. Mr. Wurtz is sure that he can get someone out of the crowd to help push buttons, but that is not as helpful as Mr. Bentzler or Ms. Cheney assisting since they know how to set up the screens.
- Mr. Cloutier asked who went with Mr. Wurtz to the previous eCOD demonstration; Mr. Wurtz answered that Mr. Bentzler and Ms. Cheney attended the previous demonstration, while Mr. Marshall and Ms. Bentley have assisted in the past. Ms. Piecuch said she does not know if one or two should attend, but an information technology person should be there to answer technical questions.
- Mr. Burford made a motion to appropriate up to five thousand dollars for two people to attend the NAPHSIS meeting in June with Mr. Wurtz, and Mr. Morin seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all were in favor.

15. IT Update – Support & Maintenance:

- Ms. Piecuch said she inquired, during the previous meeting, where things stood moneywise regarding the support and maintenance contract with CNSI. Ms. Cheney replied that the contract was just renewed, the contract was extended one year to the end of next February, and there is about four million dollars left in that account. Ms. Piecuch said she wanted to ensure there was enough for next year without needing additional monies for support and maintenance. Mr. Cloutier said the P37 was increased to allow for expenditures of extended work of support and maintenance, as well as NHVRIN*plus*. Mr. Cloutier clarified that it is a contract with CNSI to perform support and maintenance activities, not the normal support and maintenance regarding things going on with what is happening today; this also includes the maintenance of the underlying code. Ms. Piecuch was thinking about a different contract for a few hundred thousand dollars; Ms. Cheney answered that she could get a balance on that contract later.

16. IT Update – Digital Preservation of NHVRIN Data:

- Mr. Burford said he has heard much from the Committee about cutting edge technology, such as HL7, FHIR, and migrating from Oracle to SQL. On a daily basis, Mr. Burford deals with people needing to see evidence of what has transpired. In the technical world, people tend to live in the present and build for the future, but forget about leaving trails. This may be fine in business, but

government has a different obligation to the public. It is important to have some means to identifying what was done with vital records data in the past. Migration between systems, apps, and platforms needs to go smoothly and accurately. Earlier, there was talk about normalizing data, which to Mr. Burford means someone is applying human reason to make data points match, thus altering records. In doing so, the evidentiary stature and value of records are changed. Mr. Burford wonders how these decisions are documented and stored as migrations every few years into new technology are performed.

- Ms. Piecuch said it is her understanding that this presently affects only the births because there are hard copies of all deaths and marriages. Mr. Wurtz added that as eCOD moves forward, it may make death registrations almost paperless. Ms. Piecuch mentioned the fifteen years of birth records which have no hard copies. The KFI project included the digital preservation of other records.
- Dr. Dupee said that translating from a paper object to an electronic object raises legal ethical issues. This is important enough that the Committee should consider a contract with someone with appropriate legal and technical background who might suggest a change in the RSA or creating a policy statement.
- Mr. Burford said that Council of State Archivists took Mr. Burford to two single-week courses on digital preservation which were very helpful. Mr. Burford wishes information technology people also heard it because the perspective of information technology people is significantly different. Mr. Burford suggests someone in the Department of State's information technology group to be exposed to archival practices that are being developed in almost every other state. Mr. Burford thinks it would be ideal for three reasons: some of New Hampshire's records are paperless, the records have significant legal historical value, and there is a fund which can allow some information technology people to be trained in it. This is probably a task which the Department of State could perform without CNSI.
- Ms. Cheney was concerned with this subject when she served on the Dover city council. Ms. Cheney said the RSA that stated communities may digitally store everything in a pdf was passed two years ago.
- Mr. Burford had a conversation earlier this morning with a state senator about documents in pdf format, including throwing the paper away when a digital image is made of it. HB108 says after a digital image is made, the original paper may be thrown away.

- Mr. Cloutier said this matter must be addressed within the next year, which is when a migration of digital original information from an Oracle database into a SQL database will be made. A process which will document how the ascertainment of how the original information in Oracle and the original information in SQL are identical must be put in place. Mr. Cloutier said perhaps all of the elements of the original record could be translated into a data stream, exported out of Oracle into SQL, format the same data stream into the same type of bucket, and analyze the data. Ms. Piecuch said before anything gets into that birth module, that snapshot must be taken because that is the only legal document DVRA possesses. Mr. Wurtz said he did not envision anything less than comparing both forms of storage to ensure the documents are looking the same.
- Mr. Wurtz recalled years ago when there was a new technology which put a database on microfilm; although some people back then thought that was going backwards, storage is necessary. Mr. Burford added that there is a demonstrative permanence and stability to that. Mr. Wurtz continued that he had an obligation to maintain the records and also to seek Mr. Burford's approval of what process is selected. Mr. Wurtz is curious as to what is available.
- Dr. Dupee speculated about the legality of records if the original hard copies are later eliminated. Perhaps some should speak to the New Hampshire Attorney General of the New Hampshire Secretary of State. Mr. Wurtz did speak about this topic to the New Hampshire Attorney General's office in about 2008-2010 but the Attorney General's office provided nothing.
- Mr. Burford repeated his point that people are living in the here and now, not in the past or not in the future. Now, data is backed up every night, and it is possible to rebuild the data from these backups. The backups are great, but that is not digital preservation. Where a record has been and why it is like it is now is what is established with historical records. Typically, historical records are static, but digital records can be modified.
- Dr. Dupee said hash encryptions is one way to see if a vital record has been modified but asked how to protect data; Mr. Cloutier answered that the data is not static. Mr. Cloutier continued that some of the data should be static, but sometimes changes are made, such as correcting the spelling of a town like Hillsborough. Mr. Burford said in an instance like that, the original data may have an incorrect spelling, but an amendment is made indicating who made it and when it was made. Mr. Wurtz said that is a normal correction. Mr. Wurtz continued that there is now a category of edits called "KFI DQ" to correct KFI records. Ms. Cheney explained that when the KFI project started, the data entry operators were instructed to enter what was on the record and nothing more.

- Dr. Riddle said that three things must be done in the next year. First, someone must research hiring a digital archivist full-time or as a consultant. Second, that person will have to develop a formal business process. Third, someone must sanction the process. Mr. Wurtz asked if this would mean a statutory change; Dr. Riddle said that may not be necessary, but the business process must be sanctioned in some manner.
- Mr. Burford asked if this Committee would hire this person; Ms. Piecuch replied that since it is vital records data and information to be preserved, the Committee should make that hire.
- Dr. Riddle said at the state level, many agencies are facing the same issue, so maybe there should be a state digital archivist who develops consistent business processes.
- Mr. Burford said that at one of the single-week training sessions, he talked to an individual from Puerto Rico, who asked how many archivists, record managers, and digital archivists does New Hampshire have; Mr. Burford replied that he was the only one for each of those roles. The person from Puerto Rico said there are seven digital archivists in Puerto Rico. Mr. Wurtz said the federal government declared that not all of the data in Puerto Rico is reliable and birth records on file were invalidated, so people had to go to a Puerto Rico office and prove their identities and their birth certificates were established again.
- Mr. Burford said he can investigate what training opportunities are available for information technology to attend and learn how they might begin to build a repository. Mr. Burford said he was not sure it was the role of the Committee to fund the role of digital archivist, but one is needed. Mr. Burford noted that most state agencies are creating digital records. Many records are born digital; few people sit down with a typewriter or pen anymore.
- Mr. Wurtz asked what is the position of the Committee today as to making an action item to proceed. Dr. Riddle moved that by August, Mr. Wurtz and Mr. Burford return with a formal proposal on digital archiving – how a business process could be developed, how a business process could be sanctioned, at what will be achieved. Dr. Dupee suggested that legal repercussions should be included. Ms. Piecuch agreed that, in August, some decision must be made. Mr. Wurtz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all were in favor.
- Mr. Wurtz asked if the cities and towns have any experience in digital archives since they have the same problem. Mr. Rainier said that fire records and fire reports have gone digital completely.

17. CDC Contract Extension:

- Mr. Wurtz said there was some question about hiring people and buying equipment. A person could be hired part-time to work with the death registration system. Mr. Cloutier added that DVRA could execute a contract with a contractor.
- Mr. Burford and Dr. Dupee left at 12:19. A quorum is no longer present.
- *Mr. Wurtz said a build for national eCOD was delivered yesterday. The next build, once approved, which will fix issues discovered this week, will be promoted to the Apple Store. There is a pilot program where about eight individuals from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, followed by about thirty more from the OCME, will use eCOD. After that, attention will be turned to physicians. A plan is in place for physician training. Someone is interested in taking the role to go out to hospitals and, not only train physicians in using eCOD, but telling hospital administrators that electronic death registration is mandatory. The eCOD app had been taken down for about three months to make modifications based on testing by the OCME. Significant enhancements were made to allow pronouncement only of death. This is a contractual obligation which DVRA has from the CDC, so in order to keep the funding, DVRA must continue to fulfill the deliverables. Situational Surveillance is deployed in eCOD. Members of the Division of Public Health, such as Dr. Laflamme and Dr. Dupee are formulating questions. DVRA recently had a meeting with the Birth Data Quality Committee and there may be some questions deployed in the birth module of NHVRIN just to get hospital birth registrars used to what happens when the Situational Surveillance screen pops up. Situational Surveillance is any questions can be deployed at a minute's notice with answers of "yes", "no", or "unknown; it is the first-in-the-nation and has generated much publicity. Mr. Bentzler made clear that Situational Surveillance is not only in eCOD but also in NHVRIN, however the Situational Surveillance screen is not orange in NHVRIN.*
- *Ms. Cheney said DVRA has been demonstrating national eCOD to other states. National eCOD will not be deployed for another few days, so DVRA has been using New Hampshire eCOD for demonstrations to three of four other states. Meetings with the CDC to provide updates occur monthly. A pilot state is still needed.*
- *Ms. Piecuch asked if national eCOD would go live in a couple of days or will the pilot state selection or the NAPHSIS convention occur first; Ms. Cheney answered that it will go live in a couple of days but a pilot state to test it has still not been selected, therefore DVRA will test it. Mr. Wurtz emphasized that the structure of*

national eCOD can be re-structured to another state's electronic death registration systems. Ms. Piecuch asked if New Hampshire's eCOD is live presently; Mr. Wurtz said that the eCOD given to the OCME will point to the production environment in a few days.

- *Dr. Riddle said that Mr. Wurtz promised a flag to distinguish death records which involved eCOD versus death records which did not; Ms. Cheney said that field would contain a "P" if pronounced in eCOD, a "C" if certified in eCOD, and a "B" if both pronounced and certified in eCOD. Mr. Wurtz said this field is important to DVRA because it is part of the CDC contract to improve the quality of death records.*
- *Ms. Cheney said that based upon the demonstration completed recently, when someone from the OCME pronounced a death, that person will get an e-mail immediately with detailed information.*
- *Ms. Piecuch said that more states will develop interest in eCOD at the upcoming NAPHSIS meeting. Mr. Wurtz said to hear about eCOD sounds far-fetched and to see eCOD is unbelievable. The CDC contract for national eCOD provides money for the vendor to make it work in another state. Vendors who have vital records software products in other states participate in eCOD demonstrations, as recently as yesterday, and these vendors are impressed.*
- *Dr. Riddle said he hears about certifiers who claim that certifier did not sign the death certificate since that certifier did not see a particular patient or a certifier signed simply as a courtesy but knows nothing about a particular patient. Mr. Wurtz said he is involved in another project out of the Georgia Institute of Technology called the Death Worm, which is an application relying on HL7-compliant standards and can data-mine a person's chart to complete a death certificate as authorized by a physician. Mr. Wurtz is very dedicated to HL7 because he knows how New Hampshire will use it in the future and wants to be on the cutting edge. Mr. Wurtz does not want a decedent to have a thick chart while having no physician look through it. The community of concept, in which DVRA clones NHVRIN and gives it to other states, has generated interest.*
- *Ms. Piecuch said DVRA has come a long way since the ADC program of approximately two decades ago. Mr. Wurtz recalls when floppy disks were used, nonetheless New Hampshire remains on the cutting edge of vital records technology. Mr. Morin recalls last fall when he was at the National Funeral Directors Association meeting in Brookfield Wisconsin, it was stated that over fifty percent of membership renewals nationally, which is approximately sixteen*

thousand members, are still done by fax. Mr. Cloutier added that faxing something is one of the most secure methods of transacting data.

- *Ms. Piecuch said she appreciates the data on help desk requests.*

18. Next meeting & adjournment:

- *Ms. Piecuch said the next meeting date would be Friday August 18, 2017.*
- *Mr. Bentzler stated that Mr. David Fournier, even though he does not attend the meetings of the Committee, has been a tremendous help to DVRA as being a back-up person for information technology tasks. Mr. Wurtz added that on Wednesday, when a build was deployed, Mr. Fournier arrived at work between 7:00am and 7:30am to start the process because there was no DoIT involvement. Mr. Wurtz was grateful for Mr. Fournier for making things happen.*
- *Mr. Bentzler said the meeting minutes are detailed and impressive because the Committee can read the minutes and realize the Committee must discuss certain action points. Mr. Bentzler appreciates the work that Mr. Marshall does to provide such detail; Mr. Wurtz seconded that thought. Mr. Wurtz added that there was a meeting to talk about today's meeting, and the previous meeting's minutes were used to ensure today's meeting would go in the right direction.*
- *No vote was taken to adjourn because there was no quorum. Meeting was adjourned at 12:45.*