

NOA's Rod Walker Speaks at 2nd Annual MHA Health Law Conference

April 16, 2010—More than 40 healthcare organizations were represented at the 2nd Annual Mississippi Hospital Association Health Law Conference in Madison, MS where hot topics included HITECH legislation, meaningful use, and EHR adoption. Even though software vendors are not yet certified, healthcare organizations in Mississippi and across the nation are eager to meet meaningful use regulations. However, without focus and guidance, such eagerness can lead to a misuse of resources and a waste of precious time.

As a speaker at the MHA conference, **Rod Walker**, Partner & COO of **NEGLEY, OTT & ASSOCIATES, INC.** leveraged his experience as a hospital CIO and his firsthand knowledge of EHR adoption to present essential steps every healthcare organization should take now to mitigate risks later.

First, form a team to identify the strengths and weaknesses of your hospital's operational practices. Document actual compliance examples as measures based on the team's review of your systems. Address any compliance gaps by leveraging existing features of the legacy systems (e.g. problem list). Only then can you effectively identify which legacy systems demonstrate compliance and which systems should be upgraded or replaced. After surveying available vendors, plan a budget. A healthcare IT budget for any EHR adoption should account for vendor costs, staff overtime, and project team augmentation.

Preliminary planning, testing, and budgeting mitigate the risks associated with operational system overhauls and promote quality outcomes.

NEGLEY, OTT & ASSOCIATES, INC. has been showing the way in EHR implementation since 1992. They invite you to browse through publications and presentations available on their website. Rod Walker's presentation from the 2nd Annual MHA Health Law Conference is available here. Additional presentations from this year's conference are available on MHA's website.

About Negley, Ott & Associates, Inc.

NOA was formed in 1992 by IS professionals with a desire to provide hospital information systems and clinical professionals with best demonstrated practices in conjunction with implementing clinical software systems that focus on patient care. The issues, personalities, opportunities, challenges and solutions required by clinical system implementations require the ability to meld sensitivity to clinical processes with the realities of computing and patient care delivery. To date, NOA has provided services to more than 60 hospitals installing clinical systems using an approach that stresses both outcomes and knowledge transfer. Supporting so many users, both during and after their installation, gives NOA the opportunity to understand the issues that make clinical systems work, and those that don't.

About Mississippi Hospital Association

The Mississippi Hospital Association (MHA) is the state organization that represents and serves all types of hospitals, health care networks, and their patients and communities. Over 100 hospitals, health care systems, networks, other providers of care and their over 50,000 employees come together to form MHA. The Mississippi Hospital Association promotes excellence in health services through services in advocacy, education and information.

For more information about Mississippi Hospital Association, visit <http://www.mhanet.org>.

To contact us regarding NOA's assistance with this or any other service, please see our [CONTACT US](#) page.