Definition/Description:

Description of WRHA *e-Health* Strategic Plan

Source:

Chief Information Officer, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

Findings/Highlights:

- The WRHA *e-Health* consolidated strategic plan is currently in development.
- Issues currently are being defined and the plan will be completed over the next 9 months (September or October 2004).
- Examples of issues to be addressed are:
    - Lack of integration of information systems at individual sites.
    - Out-moded applications (no longer vendor-supported).
    - Inconsistencies between sites in information storing and management policies and procedures, making it difficult to compare information and transfer knowledge between staff.
    - Need for more timely and current information by health care providers
- It is worth noting that the development of the strategic plan is occurring under the guidance of the Regional Chief Information Officer (CIO), a position that has existed within the WRHA for only 1 year.
- Recently, the WRHA and the CIO announced the formation of a WRHA *e-Health* Services Division to improve the co-ordination and management of health systems initiatives in the Winnipeg Health Region, with a governance structure including strategic, project oversight, and technical councils.
- The vision of the *e-Health* Division is:
    - 'Responding to regional health information needs through the effective and efficient use of information management and communication technology.'
- Key aims include:
    - Consistent processes and service quality
    - Integration of information processes
    - Reduction of duplication
    - Achievement of economies of scale
- The WRHA *e-Health* Services Division has adopted a shared services model for the delivery of information systems solutions within the WHR that is consistent with the provincial vision.