Mr. Donald Ponikvar
Chairman, Emergency Interoperability Consortium (EIC)
Washington, DC
CC: Tom Fahy, Board Secretary (EIC)
August 16, 2012

Dear Don,

On behalf of the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC), we would like to submit the attached documents for consideration by the Emergency Interoperability Consortium (EIC) before our formal joint submission of the EDXL-Tracking of Emergency Clients specification to the Emergency Management Technical Committee (EM-TC) under the Organization of Advanced Structured Information Standards (OASIS).

Taken together, this package provides the requirements for two data exchanges. A brief abstract is provided following the closing of this letter.

1. A standard for the movement and tracking of evacuees
2. A standard for data exchange between numerous "registry" systems used by agencies and the public to register individuals' current location and status, allowing search capabilities.

Due to present time constraints, I have copied the OASIS EM-TC as an FYI-only, to expedite awareness and understanding of this package. I regret the short period, but request any questions or comments be provided no later than COB Thursday, August 23 as the final package is scheduled for OASIS submission by Friday, August 24. Please be advised that this package remains in draft status at this time, as a few late comments received from the American Red Cross remain under review. Preliminary review indicates that these comments will result in a small number of non-substantive edits. If we find otherwise, applicable comments will be added to the practitioner open issues list and included in the submission package for OASIS review and disposition.

This is a key component of effective emergency management and response; particularly when used in association with the EDXL-Tracking of Emergency Patients (TEP) and Hospital Availability Exchange (HAVE) standards. The TEC Steering Committee, the DHS EDXL Practitioner Steering Group (PSG) and Standards Working Group (SWG), comprised of a representative set of federal, state and local stakeholders are the source of the requirements for this proposed standard.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Denis A. Gusty, PMP
Program Manager
Office of Interoperability & Compatibility
DHS, Science & Technology

Attachments
Abstract follows

EDXL-TEC Abstract

This specification, as those before it, supports the Emergency Data Exchange Language (EDXL) suite of standards, defining the stakeholder / practitioner requirements and draft specification for an XML-based "messaging" standard. *The EDXL-Tracking of Emergency Clients, Phase II*, standard is intended to enable automated data exchange between disparate systems which support various emergency and disaster preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery processes.

The EDXL-Tracking of Emergency Clients, Phase II, expands the Phase I scope, Tracking of Emergency Patients (TEP), from strictly patient-focused, to support the capability for tracking of non-medical general population ("clients") such as evacuees, those sheltered in place, displaced or self-evacuating. Unlike past EDXL practitioner definition efforts which defined one and only one data exchange standard, this phase II specification defines TWO specific data exchanges which assist the overall tracking process:

1. <u>Client tracking exchange:</u> A standard data exchange between state, local, tribal and federal systems used to assist the evacuation of clients. Exchanged information supports client tracking from point of encounter with professionals, through disposition at a shelter or other location, providing real-time information to responders, emergency management, coordinating organizations and shelter facilities involved in incidents and the chain of non-medical care, services and transport.

2. <u>Client registry Exchange:</u> A standard data exchange between the many federal, private industry and NGO "Registry" systems in place today, facilitating the ability for any one registry system to contain the combined information of many registry systems. All of these systems support the same specific and unique purpose – allowing "clients" to register or update their current location and status; thereby providing loved ones and supporting agencies rich "people-finding" data sources.

   The TEC Registry Exchange, based upon the existing People Finder Interchange Format (PFIF), is designed to be a standard format for passing data *records* used to *add* or *create* new records in one or more receiving registry systems, to *update* existing records, to *delete* records, and to *specify rules* which define whether a particular record may be *promulgated* beyond the immediate receiving system.

NOTE**:** *During the TEC scoping phase, the "Shelter Availability" data exchange standard, prioritized and architected as a key component of EDXL-TEC, was requested to be addressed as a subsequent requirements definition phase due to the scope and complexity of the overall effort. Due to funding cuts and new EDXL Support contract end date of August 31, 2012, this data exchange will not be developed. For clarification however, this current EDXL-TEC specification does define evacuee "to/from" locations and their common names (e.g. "Holton Community Center", "ARC Sterling Blvd Shelter") are included in order to track evacuee movement.*

Viewed together, these two TEC phase II data exchanges support:
- Gaps identified by HHS-AHRQ processes (Dept. of Health and Human Services-Agency for Health and Research Quality)
- Increased cross-federal, state and local agency ESF-6 coordination for evacuee planning, "regulation", routing and tracking. Emergency Support Function (ESF) #6 provides Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services, providing information assisting the coordination of the delivery of these services when local, tribal, and State response and recovery needs exceed their capabilities.
- More effective evacuation management and effective use of assets
- Information about evacuee movement and special needs to inform routing decisions and shelter / services preparation.
- Family notification and reunification source data
- Minimizing of manual tracking processes and duplication of effort
- Facilitation of automated reporting across disparate agencies and systems, and up the chain of command.