



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Announcing the release of

***Forming a RHIO?
Moving from a collaborative to a formal organizational structure
with authority and accountability!***

A step-by-step guide for establishing a
Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO)

Santa Barbara, CA – January 16, 2006: Today many communities around the country are busy planning for the establishment of regional health information networks to support a nationwide health information infrastructure. As local leaders bring their clinical and technology visions and goals into focus, they often turn their attention to organizational issues such as authority, oversight, leadership, and incorporation.

For over two years, Christina Thielst has focused her efforts on supporting RHIOs with governance, administrative and management issues and is pleased to announce the release of a step-by-step guide for establishing a RHIO as a nonprofit corporation. The guide is, for the most part, based upon her experience in 2003/2004 working with local healthcare leaders of Santa Barbara County, CA and their advisor, Dr. David Brailer, to move the SBCCDE from a loose collaborative to a nonprofit corporation. It also incorporates her subsequent work supporting the development of other local and statewide RHIOs, fills in gaps in the currently available literature and ties together some of the many white papers that do exist. The guide is packed with practical information and is empirical in nature.

There is no such thing as a “RHIO-in-a-box”, but this step-by-guide will help the person or small group charged with the responsibility for “establishing the RHIO” to identify landmarks and beacons as they navigate the expanse of choices and opportunities available to their community today, and in the future. The guide is valued by collaborative networks just now starting to form, those exploring more formal organizational structures, such as incorporation and tax exemption status, and even existing organizations building strong boards and ensuring effective

oversight. The many professionals advising these community networks will also find the information contained in the guide to be extremely useful.

There is a \$195 fee to cover the cost of preparing and distributing the guide. In return, you receive an emailed copy or, if preferred, a CD including:

- The 22-page guide (PDF format).
- A list of, and links to, related resources (Word format)
- Sample policies, position descriptions and other documents (Word format)
- *And, if you order before April 2006, you will also receive a complimentary copy of the annual update to be released in January 2007.*

To order:

1. **Mail** your check or purchase order for \$195, **payable to Christina Beach Thielst** and include your e-mail address, mailing address and phone number to:
RHIO Step-by-Step Guide
4330 Modoc Road,
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
Attn: Christina Thielst
2. **Visit** <http://thielst.typepad.com> and click on the *Tip Jar* on the bottom right hand column to order online using your Paypal account. Be sure to include a message with your e-mail address, mailing address and phone number.
3. **Call** (805) 967-5032.
4. **Email** cthielst@cox.net .

About Christina Beach Thielst...

Ms. Thielst has over 22 years of hospital and health administration experience, and has consulted since establishing her independent practice in 1997. She works with health related businesses (including nonprofits) and government organizations, as well as, community collaborations. She has a Masters in Health Administration from Tulane University, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, New Orleans, LA, is a Diplomate in the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), on the board of Healthcare Executives of Southern California and a member of HIMSS and the eHealth Initiative's Working Group for Connecting Communities.

In March Ms. Thielst will present on the topic of establishing a RHIO at ACHE's [2006 Congress on Healthcare Leadership](#) in Chicago IL, which is attended by approximately 4,500 healthcare leaders. She has also established a weblog (*Christina's Considerations*) to promote learning, networking and resources for current and future RHIO leaders and the stakeholders they *serve!*

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