



ICTS | Institute for Clinical &
Translational Science
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

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Communications KFC

Some Comm. KFC History



- “Communications” mentioned 0 times in RFA-RM-06-002
 - In comparison “Informatics” occurred 38 times...
- In RFA-RM-09-019 it’s mentioned twice
 - As a dimension of informatics
 - In the roster of KFCs

Some Comm. KFC History



- Participating personnel split roughly equally between “media types” and “technical types.”
- Major focus to date has been outward facing
 - Media relations
 - ctsaweb.org, etc.
- And yet...

(Somewhat) Recent Events



- Participating in the June 23-24 2009 CTSA Administrators meeting led a group of us to propose:
 - The creation of an internal communications plan to complement the existing external plan
 - The creation of a 'tiger team' mechanism within the Communications KFC to respond to requests for assistance from across the consortium
 - Authoring of a white paper addressing concepts relating to communications in complex organizations
 - N.B. All points were approved by the KFC in its last meeting

Internal Communications Plan



- Concentrate on the interconnections within the consortium
- Improve participant awareness of the current state of affairs and what's on the horizon
- Enhance our understanding of the effectiveness of these channels and establish new ones where needed
- Provide consultation services for those groups seeking to effect change

Tiger Teams



- Draw on demand from volunteers in the KFC membership to respond to requests from the consortium at large
 - Team with cognate KFCs when useful – particularly Informatics
- Instrument our activities to assess value added and impact
 - Team with the Evaluation KFC for assessment
- Formulate and disband teams in a lightweight manner to minimize formation of bureaucracy

Communications White Paper



- Consider the extensive literature on
 - Personal information management vs. group information management (PIM vs. GIM)
 - Team science
 - Inter/Cross/Trans/Multi – disciplinary research
 - Collaboratories
 - Cyberinfrastructure
 - ...
- Evaluate our existing communication framework
- Analyze technological and organizational options

Current Status



- Internal Communications Plan strawman included in Consolidated Recommendations from Administrators group
- Tiger team
 - Lead identified (Julie McKeel, Duke)
 - Request submission framework in preparation
- White paper
 - Author team in formation
 - Literature search wrapping up

Questions?



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