

Community Report to OpenMRS Inc.

Second Quarter 2016

Prepared: July 7, 2016

As part of our operational plan objectives, the OpenMRS Community committed to developing and providing a community report to the OpenMRS Inc. Board of Directors on a quarterly basis. These communications are designed to improve knowledge and information about the OpenMRS community status and concerns.

This is our CY 2016 second quarter submission to the OpenMRS Inc. Board of Directors.

Community Status

The OpenMRS Community has continued to have active participation and forward movement. Our community continues to engage with our work and mission through OpenMRS Talk, our communication hub, as well as ongoing technical volunteer contributions. GitHub data is available here

<https://goo.gl/QaCPkQ>

Dr. Biondich transitioned his operational role within the community to another volunteer. He continues to function as the OpenMRS executive leader. Our OpenMRS community manager left the community in June. This left a significant void in the community and in leadership. We are backfilling this void through other volunteers but we will need to rehire this critical position in the near future.

The external OpenMRS Advisory Team, established in the new governance model, was established and conducted its first meeting in May 2016. This team is designed to provide insight and guidance into a multitude of questions that confront the community. In the next few months, they will be assisting us in a review of the community functions as well as the technical roadmap.

Fiscal Status

The Leadership Team continues to be increasingly concerned about funding for OpenMRS. Our community was able to identify and hire a part time fundraiser in June as well as someone to help us develop our marketing plan in May. While the Leadership Team (and the preceding leadership group) has been working to develop fundraising models as well as partnership models, we are only now beginning the implementation of a comprehensive fundraising plan. The OpenMRS operational plan is predicated upon our ability to raise fiscal resources to do essential platform work, as well as build implementer support and improve operational efficiencies. This lack of core funding continues to put the OpenMRS community and its products at risk.

Operational Plan

Our first annual report was published in March 2016. This helped us meet one of our operational plan goals developed in December 2015. Our current status on the operational plan is included as an attachment to this report.

Our six month report of our operational plan illustrates some significant challenges within the community. As you can see, we achieved only a few of our planned 6 month goals. This reflects multiple obstacles to achieving success for the OpenMRS community, including the lack of core staff to oversee and guide many of our operational goals. Based on input from the OpenMRS BOD, we also developed an impact metrics plan which has been published and endorsed by the community. Additional specific information is available for review as needed. We will begin reporting on this plan in CY 2016 third quarter.

Publications & Press

We have developed a communication plan that is basic but can help guide us. We have developed two use cases that will be made available for community use and for fundraising (these cases focus on eSaude as well as the ebola tablet development).

External Contacts into the Community

Other organizations continue to reach out to the OpenMRS community. In the past three months, the Bethesda Hospital (a humanitarian MNCH hospital planned for Haiti) and the MOH in Dominica have continued to express interest in working closely with OpenMRS. Other ongoing Leadership Team contacts include hospitals in Cambodia as well as organizations interested in global clinical informatics training. We have reached out to AMIA (American Board of Medical Informatics) to help us evaluate potential options for global clinical informatics training.

Conclusion

There continue to be many outstanding important issues that need to be resolved for OpenMRS Inc. to appear to potential funders as a reliable, legitimate non-profit organization worth funding. We are in the process of regaining our 501c3 status, but additional outstanding issues relate to basic corporate compliance. The Leadership Team is willing to support the Board to create recommendations for resolving these issues.

The Leadership Team is concerned about the interaction of OpenMRS Inc. Board with the OpenMRS Community. We believe a nonprofit board that follows best practices and transparent policies, such as

those recommended by Guidestar and BoardSource, would greatly improve the reputation of both OpenMRS Inc. and, by extension, the OpenMRS Community.

The Leadership Team submitted a request to the BOD with the last quarterly report to increase bidirectional transparency. The Community continues to believe that there is a current and ongoing need for support and communication between the OpenMRS Inc. Board of Directors with the Community, and specifically with the Leadership Team. Our understanding is that the BOD has indicated a willingness to:

- Allow the community to request a designated spokesperson to talk to the BOD during a meeting for items that require presentations and/or information shared with the Board
- Facilitate Q and A sessions with the BOD when needed. This could be 1 or 2 board members (probably should include the community elected member) and it would probably be with the leadership team and a few others
- Be present for an annual community wide call that would be similar to our recent Town Hall meeting. Anyone from the community can attend, and hopefully most of the BOD would be present.
- Have another session for the community after the BOD meeting with the same presentations that was given to the BOD. Even if there weren't slides, this would allow for the sharing of detailed notes with the community. One of the leaders of the OpenMRS community could facilitate this if the executive director is not available.

We believe that this response will enable the OpenMRS community to stay current with the BOD activities and thoughts. However, we would also ask that quarterly OpenMRS Inc. updates be shared with the community through a public Board report to the Leadership Team. We are still concerned about specific areas that we believe fall within the domain of the OpenMRS Inc. BOD. We would like to ensure that the agenda and report to the OpenMRS Community include the following topics/ information on a quarterly basis:

OpenMRS Inc. Board Report to Community

1. Current Initiatives
2. Fiscal Situation
 - a. Budget
 - b. Fundraising opportunities
3. Future initiatives
4. Organizational Roadmap

We wish to thank the BOD for their service and their consideration of the need to improve communication. We are hopeful that both our regular reports, as well as regular reports from the Board, will continue to improve the communication and provide the transparency needed to support our growth. The OpenMRS Community is committed to continuing to provide these quarterly updates.