Board of Trustees Meeting of March 16, 2016
Information Technology Report

➢ <u>**New Hire**</u>

After many months of reviewing resumes and interviewing candidates we are pleased to announce that Shadi Hermina has accepted the position as our Data Analyst. Shadi comes to us with eight years of experience as a data analyst in the information technology industry.

Shadi started with the Group on February 1st and he has hit the ground running. In only a short time, a few days of reviewing our systems and databases, Shadi has produced some reports and web based dashboards that are very impressive. Shadi will be the project lead working with ISO and WC Navigator to analyze and produce statistical results through analytics. Other NJSIG departments have seen the quality of work Shadi offers and they are very eager to utilize his skills to address some of their needs as well.

➢ <u>**ISO and WC Navigator**</u>

We have been working with our managed care company (Qual-Lynx) producing data feeds for billing and claims data needed for this project. We should have our first sample file prior to our March board meeting.

We have decided to warehouse the data being sent to us by Qual-Lynx and not import this data directly into our claims management system (STARS). There are many reasons for this, one of the major reasons is we are not setup for electronic billing at this time. Receiving bills electronically changes the entire approval process and defined fiduciary responsibilities we have built into our STARS system using a bill payer to pay claim bills. Electronic billing can be done, but we felt that there was not enough time to work through these changes and move forward with ISO at the same time. This is why we have decided to warehouse the data that we receive from our managed care company. We can then at a later date take bits and pieces of that data and utilize it however and wherever we want.

➢ <u>Upgrade to VMware</u>

VMware is our virtualized server solution we moved to back in 2010. Using VMware has reduced our hardware and hardware support cost over the years, and is a big part of our continuity plan for replication of data to our disaster recovery site in Marlboro.

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The current version 5 of VMware we are on has an end of life of August 2016. The licensing we pay for yearly through VMware includes software assurance; where all upgrades for VMware are included. The IT Department just started reviewing the details for our upgrade to the VMware version 6 release this past month and we found out the HP hardware we are using for our ESX servers is not supported by this new version. There are 6 ESX HP servers on our network; we have 3 in our Mount Laurel office and 3 in our Marlboro office. The cost to upgrade these servers is around $50,000. I have spoken to Bill Mayo about adding this cost to my 2016/2017 IT budget.

I wanted to give you a little history on those 6 ESX servers. These servers were re-provisioned from our network and used in the move to VMware in 2010. These servers are between nine and eleven years old depending on when they were purchased. Based on their age I would have been budgeting in the 2017/2018 year to upgrade those servers along with our SAN storage servers, unfortunately we are being forced to upgrade the ESX servers a year earlier.

Jeff Cook

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