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### **HIP TN elects new board officers**

Dr. Robert Mandel, senior vice president of Health Care Services for BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee was elected the new Chair of the board for the Health Information Partnership for Tennessee at the non-profit's Aug. 23 board meeting.

Mandel replaces Robert S. Gordon, executive vice president and chief administrative officer of Baptist Memorial Health Care, who led the HIP TN board in its first year. The non-profit organization is a partnership of stakeholders working to establish a health information exchange in Tennessee.

Other officers elected at the board meeting were Vice Chair, Dr. Reginald Coopwood, chief executive officer of the Regional Medical Center in Memphis; Treasurer Dr. B.W. Ruffner, president of the Tennessee Medical Association; and Secretary Patrick Willard, advocacy director for AARP in Tennessee.

HIP TN is a non-profit collaborative effort of patients, providers, health insurers, self-insured employers, hospitals and pharmacies.

HIP TN is currently reviewing proposals to identify a Health Information Exchange (HIE) Solution Provider who will establish a statewide health information exchange to improve the quality of care for Tennesseans.

A health information exchange (HIE) is a term used to describe the secure electronic movement of health related information among organizations according to nationally recognized standards. HIP TN is working with the state Office of eHealth to create a program to make electronic health records available to providers on a network across Tennessee.

The HIE will be operated by the contracted solution provider and supervised by HIP TN. Proposals from vendors were due July 13. The target date for implementation to begin is Sept. 30.

*Health Information Partnership for Tennessee (HIP-TN) is a non-profit organization formed in 2009 which works to improve access to health information through a statewide collaborative process by providing services and infrastructure for the secure electronic exchange and use of health information. HIP-TN brings together stakeholders representing the state's health care providers, health plans, physicians, businesses and consumers to create a health information exchange that will enable the right medical information to get to the right provider at the right time to enhance patient care. For more information, please visit [www.hiptn.org](http://www.hiptn.org)*