

VOTE DAN NICK ERIE CITY COUNCIL

THE NICK AGENDA PART III: COMMUNITY ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SYSTEM

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010 changed the way hospitals and physicians provide patient care. The ACA requires all medical professionals and institutions to use an electronic health record system for patient appointments, charting, orders, and billing. This forced the medical community to purchase systems that are costly and ineffective. In the end, it is the patient that suffers the most - time spent with the physician has decreased and medical bills have increased.

If done right an electronic health record system can save the medical community time, money and give patients a sense of relief knowing their medical information is safe and secure. The Department of Veterans Affairs has used an electronic health record system for 35 years called VistA without any issues.

A community electronic health record (CEHR) will connect hospitals, physician offices, and rural clinics with ease without the struggle of accessing different systems and screens. It will save time for the physician and medical office staff – time that can be used for patient care.

A CEHR will use open source technology which would allow the stakeholders to customize it based upon their needs. Currently, a physician is spending anywhere between \$150 to \$400 a month. A hospital spends \$150,000 to \$250,000 a month on electronic health record operating costs. A CEHR will reduce cost by 60%. It will also provide 30-40 high paying jobs in the Erie Community.

The types of jobs the CEHR would create are:

- IT Network Administrators
- IT Programmers
- Help Desk Support
- Data Analysts
- Customer Service Representatives
- Nurses
- Risk/Compliance Managers

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