This year's Azara User's conference featured a myriad of offerings for every level of user from Medical Assistant to Network Administrator and everything in between. Several topics of community health that are important to the majority of users in attendance were made feature presentations while breakout sessions offered in-depth, small group discussions on areas that were pertinent to different types of users. For example, the HIE/PCA discussion- DRVS & Health Information Exchange: Helping Close the Last Mile- was one of the presentations all attendees had the opportunity to participate in along with the overview of product development; new features to be added in the coming year; and case studies of optimal DRVS use.

Conference sessions covered a wide range of subjects, which speaks to both the efficacy of the product and the integral nature of data in healthcare today. While some breakout sessions focused on how specifically measures are captured(Anatomy of a Measure), there were also sessions on how to use the product for health center-wide programs such as PCMH as well as more granular sessions on modules that help with the day to day process(Patient Visit Planning- Lessons Learned). Marana Healthcare presented during the first day of the conference on how utilizing DRVS has improved provider satisfaction and increased quality of care in a session titled, "Quality Performance is the New Currency".

The DRVS Knowledge and Support Center was on hand each day with Azara support team members able to answer questions regarding your DRVS system or respond to anything that you may have come across while using DRVS that you wanted to discuss with them. One attendee from Indiana brought them donuts to thank them for all their help throughout the year! There were also awards distributed to health centers and PCAs that used DRVS in novel ways, such as one PCA who used their demographic zip code data to verify that patients in a flood plain were safe.

Yet throughout the conference it was apparent that the Azara healthcare team strives to create a sense of purpose to the product, the "why" of it all. They seem to seek a way in which to ground their very technology-laden conference is with speakers that vocalize the reasons "we do what we do". Such as with the keynote speaker: ePatient Dave deBronkart (www.epatientdave.com). Besides being a rare cancer survivor, he's a patient advocate and medical collaborator who spoke about his experience working with his doctors; having a support group that prepared him for the process he was about to endure and how technology allowed him to feel empowered. With the emphasis on patient engagement in many of our upcoming goals, his suggestions and insights were truly valuable. There was also the clinical perspective brought by Dr. Ron Yee, Chief Medical Officer of NACHC who explained how health centers all over the country are using Informatics & health data to not just improve patient care, but community health overall. He even highlighted El Rio's work with their data in an effort to improve care related to their value-based payment contracting!

While it was a short conference, it was quite rich with information. I asked the questions health centers had provided me with prior to the conference as well as followed up on some network-wide initiatives with the Azara Healthcare administration as well. I will make sure to notify everyone when the presentation slides from the conference are available.