**Electronic Health Records: Implications for Birth Defects Surveillance**
Moderator: Glenn Copeland, Michigan Birth Defects Registry, Lansing, MI

Seth Foldy, Public Health Informatics and Technology Program Office (PHITPO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA
Tiffany Colarusso, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA
Glenn Copeland, Michigan Birth Defects Registry, Lansing, MI

The US Federal mandate to implement electronic health records (EHR) by 2014 provides an opportunity for birth defects programs to improve capacity for surveillance and other public health activities. However, many challenges exist in utilizing these technologic advances. This session will 1) discuss the meaning of various terminology and the implication of leveraging EHR for public health surveillance; 2) describe how birth defects surveillance is represented in national plans for incorporating public health aspects into EHR systems; 3) provide state-level examples of EHR system utilization by cancer and immunizations; and 4) discuss opportunities for involvement in this process by NBDPN.