

Emerging solutions to interstate exchange challenges highlighted by the State Health Policy Consortium project

Presented by

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Outline

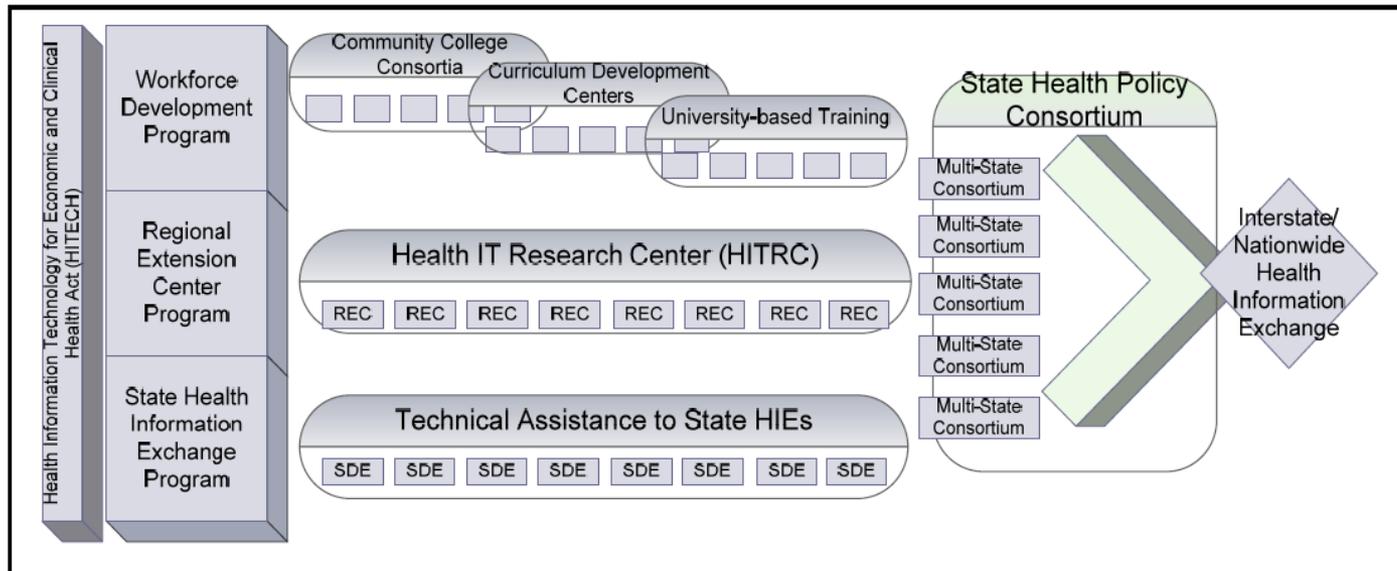
- Background and Objectives
- Challenges and Solutions
- Emerging Issues
- Impact and Future
- Questions and Suggestions

Background

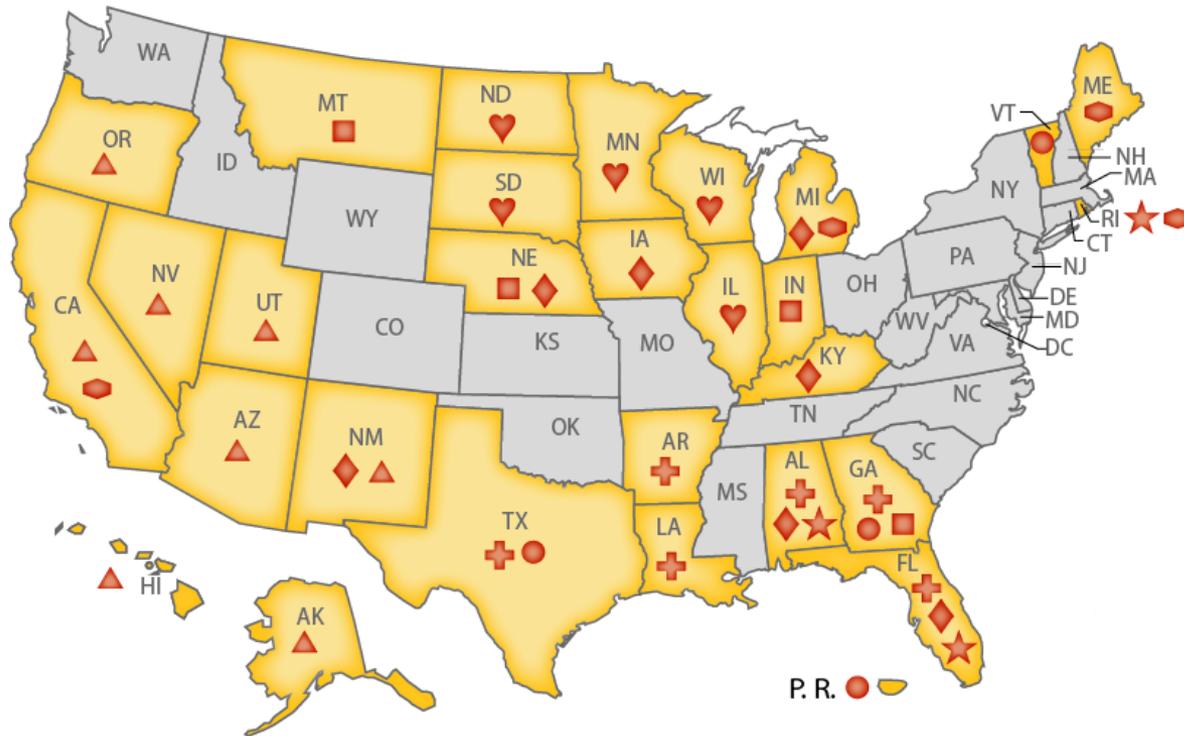
- Funded by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC)
- Period of Performance: April 2010 – April 2013
- Project funds are disbursed through a concept submittal and review process (see www.rti.org/shpc)
- Requirements:
 - Involvement of at least three states
 - Support/acknowledgement of State Health IT Coordinator
 - Concept in-line with project objectives

Objectives

- Provide services that support states to resolve policy issues at a concrete level to exchange health information across state lines.
- Leverage state-level work to further advance solutions for regional and nationwide application and use.
- Serve as a test-bed for early stage interstate exchange solutions in the areas of technology, policy, and governance.



Current/Previous SHPC Projects



- ♥ Upper Midwest HIE Consortium (UMHIE)
- ✚ Southeast Regional HIT-HIE Collaboration (SERCH)
- ◆ Behavioral Health Data Exchange Consortium
- ▲ Western States Consortium
- Interface Library Project
- Consumer Innovation Challenge
- ★ Direct Use Case Study Consortium
- ◈ Trailblazers

Challenges and Proposed Solutions

Challenge

State-based policies regarding consent pose complexities for providers in interstate exchange scenarios; more straightforward solutions necessary.

Behavioral health/substance abuse data is segmented from health record; difficult to integrate into electronic exchange environment, and providers unaware of how to handle

Proposed Solution

Upper Midwest HIE Consortium

- Creation of a uniform consent form that adheres to the laws of each participating state.
- Creating framework for electronic consent management that will allow states to share consent preference information.

Behavioral Health Data Consortium

- Create common set of Policies & Procedures for exchange
- Conduct pilot exchange using Direct secure messaging between participants in 2 or more states

Challenges and Proposed Solutions

Challenge	Proposed Solution
<p>Systems are not available that support data exchange across state lines quickly and appropriately in a disaster</p>	<p><u>Southeast Regional HIT/HIE Consortium (SERCH)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a strategic plan and recommendations to ensure HIE disaster preparedness
<p>No incentive for health information service providers (HISPs) to transmit information to and/or from other competing HISPs, impeding the delivery of Direct messages between known providers</p>	<p><u>Western States Consortium</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a minimum set of criteria required to support trusted exchange; create a governance structure to support a “regional trust anchor” or “trust bundle”

Challenges and Proposed Solutions

Challenge	Proposed Solution
<p>Directories do not exist that allow providers to discover and send Direct secure messages; messages can only be sent when the Direct email address is known</p>	<p><u>Western States Consortium</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a regional provider directory of Direct users for those included in the “trust bundle”
<p>Support for HIE infrastructure has not traditionally focused on the consumer as the central beneficiary of the services</p>	<p><u>Consumer Innovation Challenge</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Convene a set of states with Consumer-facing initiatives to support forward movement in each individual project

Challenges and Proposed Solutions

Challenge	Proposed Solution
<p>Little information has been gathered about how providers are choosing to use Direct to improve workflow around exchange</p>	<p><u>Direct Use Case Stories</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perform observations in a variety of locations to understand which Direct Use Cases are experiencing most success, what alternative Use Cases providers are receiving value.
<p>The cost and time to build interfaces between systems is a barrier to interoperability</p>	<p><u>Interface Library Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build a repository of interfaces (especially those developed with Federal or State funding) and make them available for reuse

Emerging Issues

Issue	Possible Solutions?
<p>The current health information exchange environment relies too heavily on one-to-one agreements, which are not scalable, but the effect of exchanging in the absence of these agreements has not been tested.</p> <p>Methods of putting health information into the hands of the patient (PHRs, Patient portals) continue to be tethered, do not take advantage of growing HIE capabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Coordinate a group of state HIE staff to develop a white paper/issue brief that investigates the issues of interstate exchange without one-to-one agreements<li>•Multi-pronged solution that looks at opportunities to pilot Direct enabled communication with patients, researching PHR functionality tied to outcomes, and creating messages and products to support PHRs as a way to increase communication between patients and providers

Impact

- **Consent:** Issues related to both large scale electronic interstate consent management persist. This is a big, complex issue within state boundaries involving questions related to data segmentation and consent preferences.
 - The “Tiger Team” has been clear on this issue – patients must have the ability to express consent preferences and to make changes to those preferences over time
 - <http://wiki.siframework.org/Data+Segmentation+Consent+Management+Transactions>
- **Disaster Planning:** We found that very little work had been done since Katrina to integrate advances in health information exchange into disaster planning initiatives. The frameworks are now in place, but the recommendations of our report have yet to be activated on a large scale (see References for report).

Impact

- **Behavioral Health Data Exchange:** Major advancements have been made through our project and through other projects (most notably SAMHSA's Center for Integrated Health Solutions (CIHS) program), but we have only just scratched the surface in terms of integrating BH data into overall HIE plans
 - See recent Behavioral Health roundtable report sponsored by ONC: http://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/bh-roundtable-findings-report_0.pdf
- **Direct secure messaging/trusted exchange:** The basic minimum standards for private and secure HISP operations are fairly well established, but until a process for validation and governance on a regional or nationwide scale is determined, information will not flow as originally envisioned.
 - <http://wiki.directproject.org/Direct+Rules+of+the+Road>

Future

- Areas where an impact is needed:
 - Consumer engagement in health information exchange; patients as the central resource for sharing data when and where needed, without concern about state boundaries or centralized patient consent protocols.
 - Determining how electronic data supports electronic quality measurement and how interstate systems can further expand our understanding of how to improve patient care.

Questions and Suggestions

- What topic(s) described above are of most interest to you? Most relevant to your work?
- What additional questions do you have about those topics?
- Are there any challenges that you have developed local solutions to that you'd like to share?
- Are there additional challenges to interstate exchange that you have experienced that you'd like us to consider working on in the future?

Contact Information

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References and additional information

- RTI Project Information Page: www.rti.org/shpc
- ONC Project Information Page:
<http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&mode=2&objID=3035>
- SERCH Disaster Preparedness Report:
<http://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/SERCH-White-Paper.pdf>