Strategies for the States and Military to Share Health Information

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Presentation Overview

● Texas Health Services Authority (THSA)
● Federal Health IT Policy
● Vision for Health IT – Where are we going?
● Why is health information exchange important?
● Overview of Challenges
● Strategies Discussion
THSA Organizational Background

Created in 2007 by the Texas Legislature through House Bill 1066

Public-private partnership, legally structured as a nonprofit corporation, to promote and coordinate the development of HIE in Texas

Governed by a 13-member Board of Directors appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the Texas Senate
Federal Health IT Policy

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

- Several new health IT initiatives created and funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)
  - Electronic health record incentives (estimated $36-$46 billion)
  - Health information infrastructure ($2 billion)
- State grants for HIE planning and implementation
- Health IT regional extension centers
- Health IT workforce program
Vision for Health IT

*Where are we going?*

State Vision:

A healthcare system supported by a technological infrastructure made up of:

- Ubiquitous, interoperable, electronic health records composed of structured data elements; and

- A secure network to support the exchange of health information among providers.
Why is it important to share information?

Military Personnel and Veteran Population
- Large number of military and veteran benefit personnel – failure to connect to enable cross-sector health information exchange leaves out a significant part of our health care sector.
- Military presence. Major factor for Texas and other states.
  - Texas #1 in active duty military personnel in the country (with historic active installations like Fort Sam Houston, Fort Bliss, Fort Hood, Randolph AFB and Naval Air Station Corpus Christi);
  - Texas #2 in DoD civilian workforce.

Quality, Safety, and Efficiency
- Improve continuity of care and ensure providers have the right information at the right time.
  - Better care
  - Reduce duplicate tests
  - Avoid adverse drug interactions
- Increase patient access to health information and empower patients to better manage their personal care.
Overview of Challenges

- Technical interoperability challenges
  - Message (variations in message structure)
  - Vocabulary (values assigned to pieces of information)

- Process challenges
  - Patient matching
  - Erroneous results handling

- Operational challenges
  - Legacy systems
  - Timing

- Other
  - Sustainability
  - Privacy and security
  - Statewide connectivity
Strategies Discussion

- **Technical Interoperability**
  - Ensure state and community technical solutions are aligned with federal standard interoperability initiatives (i.e., Standards and Interoperability Framework and Nationwide Health Information Network Exchange Architecture and Specifications)

- **Process challenges**
  - Monitor progress through the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) that supports connectivity using NwHIN Exchange

- **Operational challenges**
  - Monitor VLER Communities Program
  - Ensure state health information architecture supports standards in line with federal standard interoperability initiatives

- **Other**
  - Monitor approach to implementation of statewide HIE
  - Ensure inclusive state and community-level governance that includes key stakeholders, including federal agency partners
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