

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

THSA



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