



Current HIT Initiatives:

A Large City Health Department Perspective

Presented by

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Philadelphia Department of Public Health



- Serves Philadelphia, which is both a City and a County
- Serves a population of 1.5 million
- Has 1,000 Employees
- Has 20 diverse program areas: environmental, medical examiner, animal control, restaurant inspections...
- Has three main areas within the PDPH that focus on current HIT initiatives: DDC, AHS, DIT

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Division of Disease Control

- Has numerous programs with case management/outreach and data collection, such as Immunization, STD (including clinic), TB (including clinic), Acute Communicable Disease
- Is responsible for NEDSS, BioSense, HAN, the Cities Readiness Initiative including Strategic National Stockpile
- Works with Philadelphia EOC and eTeam Incident Management System for five-county SEPA area (one third of State population)

Ambulatory Health Services

- 8 Health Care Centers
- 350,000 patient visits per year
- 550,000 prescriptions per year
- 20,000 dental visits per year
- Outreach programs
- Over 50 % of patients are uninsured

Division of Information Technology

- Responsible for infrastructure and enterprise functions
- Supports over 50 systems
- Provides coordination between units, other city departments, providers, and vendors
- Provides project management for new initiatives

RHIOs

- PA Medical Society - PA e-Health Initiative
- Delaware Valley HealthCare Council (local chapter of the Hospital and Healthcare Association of Pennsylvania)
- TB X-ray exchange
- PDPH expected role

Electronic Health Records (EHR)

- Lab reporting and EHR at HCC
- Interface Health Care Center's lab system with Pennsylvania Department of Health and NEDSS
- Critical need for EHR to improve patient services locally
- Relationship between Health Care Center EHR and national effort

HIT Initiatives: Local HD Issues

- Priorities: local core responsibilities vis-à-vis state and national initiatives
- Cross-jurisdictional (county and state)
- Integration of initiatives
- Interoperability of systems
- Resources/training

HIT Initiatives: Challenges

- Leadership/Governance
- Coordination/communication
- Role definition: Who is involved? Who should be involved?
- Planning: at local, state, and federal levels
- Additional and more refined standards
- The need to address privacy issues

Summary

- HIT initiatives need to be defined in relation to each other and the National Health Information Network (NHIN)
- Cooperation between the public and private sectors is essential
- An allowance should be made for the governance framework to develop over time
- A means for local HD input, oversight, and process improvement is necessary. They must have a seat at the table

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