

Summary of FHIN Projects 2005-2006

Implementation Grants

Title: BBRHIO Regional Healthcare Information Network

Objectives: The Big Bend Regional Healthcare Information Organization (BBRHIO) will facilitate the exchange of patient data across multiple health care providers in the Florida Big Bend area by implementing and operating a regional health information network. The project will be accomplished in two phases over a six month period. In the first phase, the basic repository and medications component will be completed, and in the second phase, the interfaces for data sharing will be completed.

Data from encounters in other organizations is intended to supplement clinicians existing systems. The network will present the data in a manner that is harmonious with the health care provider's existing workflow and will allow the data to be integrated into the provider's electronic medical record.

Approach & Key Partners: A centralized architecture will be used to support clinical data exchange among the health care providers. This approach will facilitate backup, recovery and disaster recovery in the community. The information will be available to all authorized health care providers with a direct connection to the BBRHIO private medical area network or an Internet-based virtual private network connection, whether or not they reside in the Florida Big Bend area. In order to view the information available via the network, clinicians must agree to the project's privacy and security requirements by signing a business associate agreement. This agreement will be available for patient review and has been developed in conjunction with a patient consent form.

Project participants currently utilize sophisticated electronic medical record systems. As part of this initiative, they have agreed to provide the data feeds necessary for the implementation and operation of the start-up network. Project partners include Capital Health Plan, Capital Regional Medical Center, KWB Pathology Associates, Radiology Associates of Tallahassee, Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare, Southern Medical Group, Tallahassee Ear Nose and Throat, and Vascular Surgery Associates.

Title: Tampa Bay RHIO

Objectives: The Tampa Bay RHIO will create technical and clinical pathways to improve the quality and availability of health information targeting persons with three specific diseases – adult diabetes, pediatric asthma, and prostate cancer. The exchange of information will occur among designated institutional and health care providers. The Tampa Bay RHIO preliminary planning efforts have produced a scalable platform that is compatible with a variety of providers, disease states and geographic locations.

By the end of the grant period (June 2006), the project will create formal electronic clinical data exchange capacity among Tampa General Hospital, All Children's Hospital, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Research Hospital, participating Medicaid physicians, and other providers. The project will implement interconnectivity among entities for the sharing of prescription drug data and laboratory test result data. It will also measure changes in participant utilization, and assess patient and physician satisfaction with the project.

Approach & Key Partners: Patient discharge and encounter data will be exchanged through a personal digital assistant on a daily basis. Participating providers will have access to patient health information through the personal digital assistant or a web based electronic health record. In addition to the prescription drug history, the platform will be further enhanced with laboratory results and inpatient and outpatient encounter data.

The Partnership and participating providers shall not use or disclose any information concerning a recipient of services under the project for any purposes not in conformity with state and federal law or regulations including but not limited to federal Medicare regulations, except upon written consent of the recipient, or his or her responsible parent or guardian when so authorized by law.

To guide the development of the Tampa Bay RHIO educational components, three separate surveys for each type of diagnosis will be administered to a sample of Medicaid consumers to assess their level of knowledge about their diagnosis. The satisfaction of patients and participating physicians will also be assessed.

The formation of the Tampa Bay Regional Health Information Organization (Tampa Bay RHIO) is the result of a year long planning effort of the Tampa Bay Partnership Regional Research and Education Foundation, Inc., in collaboration with The University of South Florida Health Colleges of Medicine, Public Health, and Nursing, and more than a dozen public and private health care, government and private business organizations.

Title: Western Palm Beach County Health Information Infrastructure Operations and Evaluation Project

Objectives: The Palm Beach County Community Health Alliance and the Health Care District of Palm Beach County will plan, design, implement, and evaluate a shared electronic health record model for record sharing among a core group of safety net providers in Palm Beach County. The project proposed in this application represents the first phase in a three-year project to link the entire health care system in Palm Beach County, and will include development of the "All-Care" Master Patient Index and Clinical Data Repository. All-Care will allow providers to view longitudinal records for patients via the Web that are created from electronic demographic and health information.

The first phase of the project will develop an All-Care interface for Glades General Hospital and C.L. Brumback, implement procedures for viewing data from both locations, and designate first users.

Approach & Key Partners: The project will replicate a successful project implemented in a similar patient and payer environment in Austin, Texas. Partners will contribute data through electronic interfaces to a central data repository that an application service provider will maintain. The application service provider will be responsible for making software available for the shared record. After patients have signed authorizations, providers will access individual records using Internet Explorer and the web. Providers will not be required to use new software or perform duplicate data entry in order to use the system.

The Palm Beach County Community Health Alliance is the project leader for this undertaking. The Alliance is composed of a total of 33 public and private entities, including Glades General Hospital, C.L. Brumback Federally Qualified Health Center, and other safety net health and mental health providers.

Planning Grants

Title: A Proposal to Use Technology to Provided Better Care for Safety Net Patients

Objectives: AccessEscambia represents a group of local providers collaborating to design an interoperable health information system that will permit users to exchange critical patient information in a standardized format between non-affiliated hospitals, clinics, laboratories, pharmacies and physician offices in Escambia County Florida. A comprehensive assessment and work plan for the project will be completed by June 30, 2006.

Approach & Key Partners: The Escambia Health Information Network (ESHIN) will utilize technology based on a central ‘smart index’ and federated data access model enabling authorized users to review clinical information from multiple providers and information systems among participating healthcare providers. This project will be implemented in conjunction with the Partners in Care Consortium, which includes Baptist Health Care, Sacred Heart Health System, Escambia County Health Department, and Escambia Community Clinic.

Title: Strategic Plan for the Central Florida RHIO

Objectives: This project will create a plan for a working Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) model that will demonstrate information technology connectivity among health care providers and an approach for achieving long-term sustainability. A

comprehensive plan that includes a vendor review, plan of work, and sustainability model will be completed by June 30, 2006.

Approach & Key Partners: The Central Florida RHIO (CFRHIO) was convened in 2004 by the Florida Health Care Coalition, a regional business health coalition representing large employers, with over 120 members that include health care payers and providers. The Central Florida RHIO has established key committees in clinical, technology, education, finance and legal affairs to address the various areas of comprehensive plan.

Title: Brevard County Health Information Network

Objectives: This project will outline the specific actions required to implement a technology based health information network that links non-affiliated health care providers in Brevard County. The network will allow the exchange of patient demographic and health care data including treatments provided, test results, and medications. The project will focus specifically on improving quality of care and reducing health care costs for elderly and low income patients as target populations. The project will produce a detailed work plan by June 30, 2006.

Approach & Key Partners: Health First, Inc. proposes to work in collaboration with Parrish Medical Center and the Brevard County Health Department to develop an implementation strategy to build and deploy a HIPAA compliant health information network that supports accurate, timely, and secure sharing of patient information among Brevard County health care providers. The system will be built on a web-based platform. This will limit the requirement for new or specialized hardware and will capitalize on health information technology already in use by the participating entities.

Title: South Florida Health Information Initiative

Objectives: The South Florida Health Information Initiative will develop an organization structure that is inclusive of the health care provider, payer, information technology, consumer, advocacy, and business community in Miami-Dade and its surrounding counties. The project will establish a not for profit corporation to provide a sustainable entity representative of the numerous stakeholders in the South Florida community, identify a mutually agreeable health information data exchange project, and create a comprehensive plan for the project.

Approach & Key Partners: The goal of the proposed planning and assessment grant is to expand the existing Miami Health Information Initiative of Jackson Memorial Hospital into a South Florida health information initiative that encompasses the size, diversity, complexity, and varied interest of the South Florida community defined as Miami-Dade

and its surrounding counties. Health Foundation of South Florida (HFSF), a charitable, scientific, and educational foundation, serves as the lead organization for the planning grant.

Title: Pinellas Regional Health Organization: Diabetes and Pediatric Asthma Health Information Exchange (Pinellas RHIO)

Objectives: Pinellas County Health Department will develop a comprehensive action plan for supplying additional clinical and public health chronic disease information and data to the Tampa Bay RHIO. The project will demonstrate how diabetes and pediatric asthma components of our existing Pinellas STEPS and Healthy Start programs can be exchanged to enhance Tampa Bay RHIO and how public health data can be utilized to evaluate critical health outcomes. The project plan will be completed by June 30, 2006.

Approach & Key Partners: The project will inventory all diabetes and pediatric asthma health information data sources, conduct an assessment of the compatibility of existing information systems, and examine potential benefits of adding case management components. Pinellas STEPS is a five-year federal initiative, administered by the Pinellas County Health Department. It focuses on the reduction of diabetes, obesity, and asthma by addressing risk factors in four contiguous municipalities of Pinellas County. All Children's Hospital and Bayfront Medical Center are STEPS partners.

Training and Technical Assistance Grants

Title: Primary Care Information Technology and Electronic Patient Record Education Program

Objectives: The Florida Academy of Family Physicians will expand its efforts to inform members of the need for use of electronic health record technology. The Academy will conduct its third independent Electronic Health Record Workshop to be held in May 2006 with the goal of doubling the number of participants.

Approach & Key Partners: The workshop will include presentations on electronic health records systems by practitioners who are experienced users. Following the workshop, the Academy will assemble a task force to develop a manual on electronic medical records purchasing for dissemination to members. The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), Center for Health Information Technology, will provide technical assistance.

