



Health Information Exchange: State-level challenges and opportunities

Linda L. Kloss, MA, RHIA, FAHIMA
**CEO, American Health Information
Management Association (AHIMA)**

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and Education of AHIMA

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Topics

- The emerging HIE environment
- The State level HIE Consensus Project
- Key findings and recommendations
- Implications for the future

Achieving the promise of health IT & interoperability

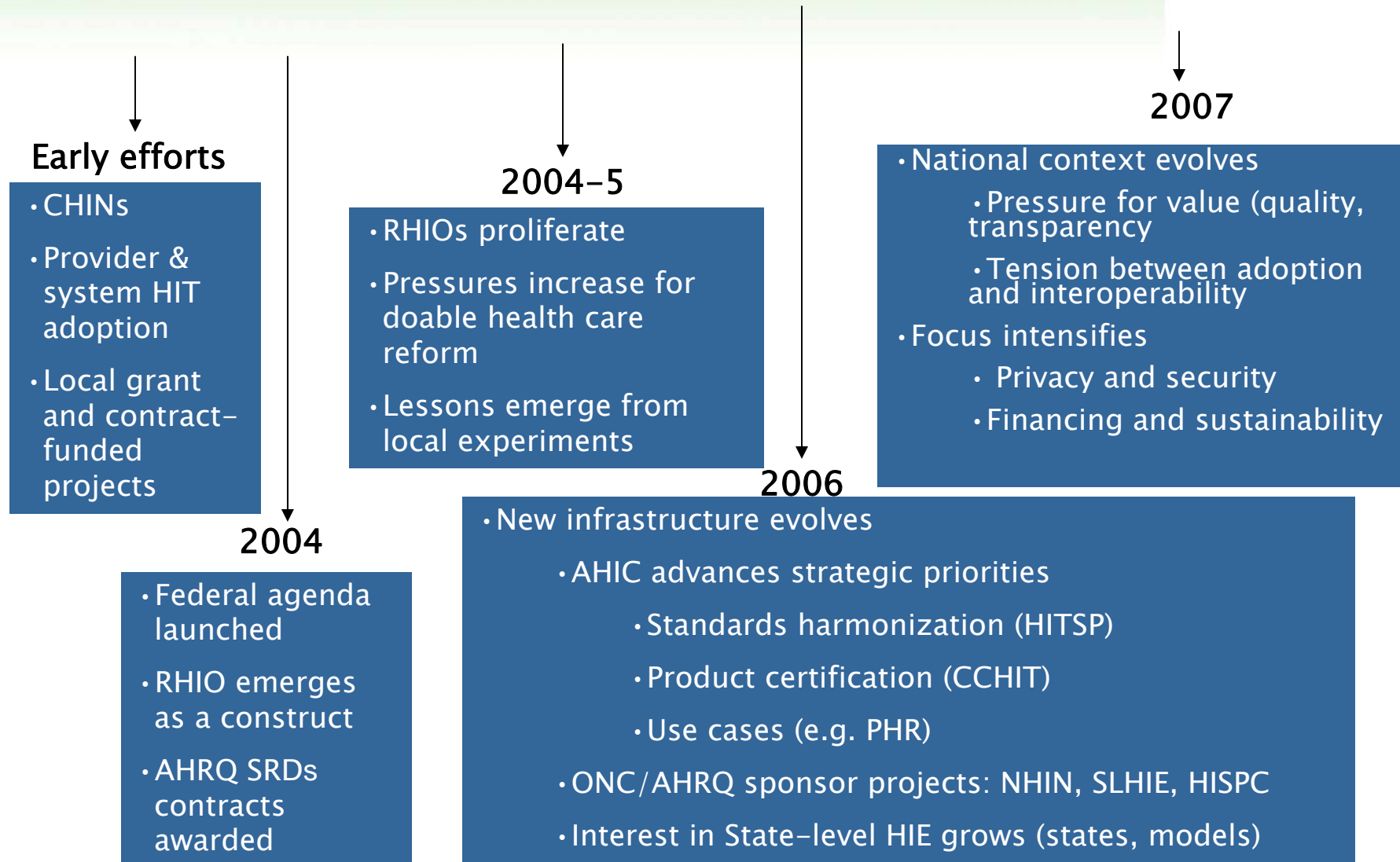
Three systems* of strategic change:

All are at play in health transformation through IT

- Technical → IT, policies, business practices, work flow, regulations, standards
- Political →
 - Solutions for power sharing among stakeholders
- Cultural →
 - Shared vision for change, breaking out of cultural cocoons, societal values

*Noel Tichy, PhD.

States and HIE: A historical context



Growing attention to the state level

- States are integral to a nationwide interoperable infrastructure for health information exchange
 - There is no one national identity management solution (i.e. patient identifier)
 - There is no one national technology, policy, or financing solution
- States are taking action to make HIE a health care reform strategy and priority
- Significant interdependencies exist between states and federal government
 - Neither “bottom up” nor “top down” alone are sufficient
 - HIE agendas must be coordinated and information shared to achieve synergistic partnerships
 - States must align with federal HIT initiatives
 - Federal efforts must take into account diverse state environments

State level HIE Consensus Project

- **ONC:** a targeted initiative to explore state level HIE and develop practice and policy guidance for (and regarding) state-level HIE initiatives
 - 2006 launch, now in second contract phase
- **Formative**
 - From RHIO to “State level HIE initiative” – acknowledging the distinction of “statewideness”
 - Analysis of emerging practices
 - Evolving versus static “snap shot”
- **Method**
 - Research and analysis
 - Synthesis and recommendations regarding strategic priorities, multi-level guidance
 - State level HIE learning community (Steering Committee)

State level HIE Project Overview

2006

“State Level Health Information Exchange Initiative Development Workbook: A Guide to Key Issues, Options and Strategies”

2006

Information Exchange and Major Federal Initiatives

Exchange and Quality and Transparency Initiatives

Medicaid and Health Information Exchange Initiatives

Financially Sustainable Health Information Exchange Services

(Reports available at www.staterhio.org)

2007

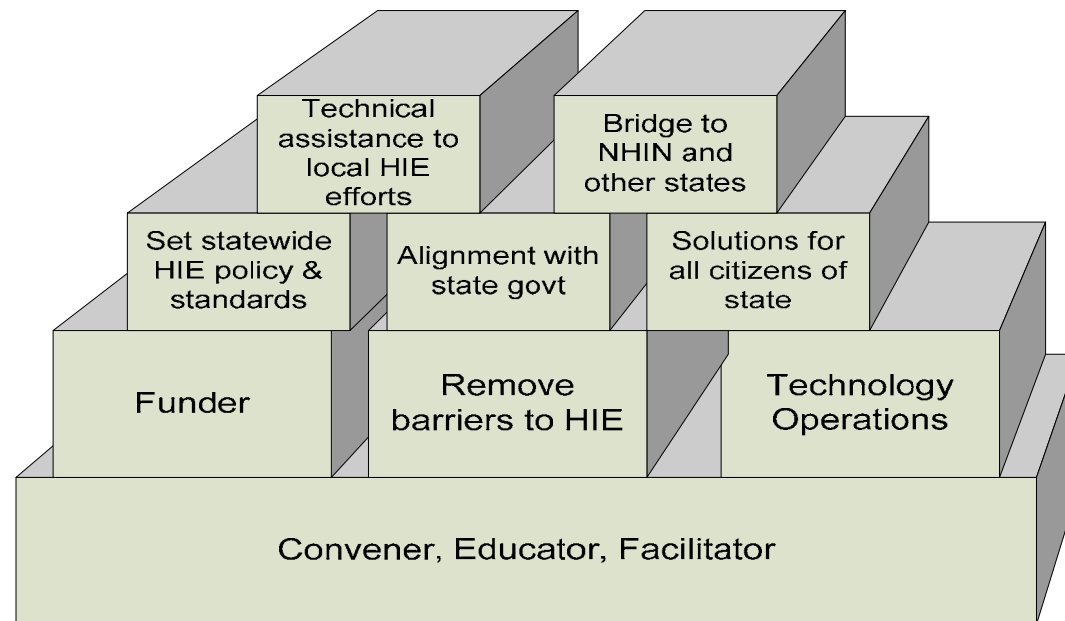
Research on: Governance, Financial/programmatic sustainability, information policy and practices
Consensus on criteria for state-level entities
Outreach and dissemination of learning

SLHIE Consensus Project--2006

- Identified characteristics, categorized emerging experiences and models for SLHIE roles, functions
- Related experience to environment (and aspirations) to produce set of principles
 - Roles, governance, financing, policy
- Consensus recommendations
 - Guidance for state efforts
 - Guidance for national level efforts
 - Venue to identify and address pressing issues and questions

Critical Roles for State-Level Initiatives

Building Blocks for State-Level HIE Initiatives



The state-level HIE initiative may choose some or all of these “blocks” or roles for its scope, or may identify others. In addition, more “blocks” may be added over time.

Principles for SLHIE development

- Governance – public/private, collaborative
 - Commitment to *statewide* interests
 - Senior leadership
 - Balanced participation
 - Transparency, credibility, flexibility
- Financing – diverse, aligned with vision
 - Evolving business model
 - Need to understand stakeholder value
 - Address continuum of needs: start up –sustainability
 - Integrate local and state level HIE
 - Funding mix: in-kind, state/public, grants/contracts, other investments

Principles: HIE policy and Operations

- HIE policy development
 - Collaboration vs. self-interest
 - Broad bipartisan support
 - Education early and often
- Policy environment
 - Linked to HIE technology and operations
 - Requires consistency with emerging national standards

Additional recommendations

- Deeper dive required
 - Mechanisms to promote strategic synergy between state-federal agendas, initiatives
 - Salient financial models for sustainability
 - Role and influence of public and private payers
 - Involvement of state policy makers and government – making real a public/private partnership
 - Ongoing support for SLHIE initiatives – tools, learning, voice

2006 Project extension

Four tasks

1. Relationship of SLHIE to federal, other HIT activities
2. Financially sustainable HIE models
3. Role and involvement of Medicaid programs
4. Strategic and operational coordination of HIE and quality and transparency initiatives

Extension Findings

- Federal and state coordination critical to the whole
 - Explicit engagement of SLHIE in NHIN development
 - Formal, reliable communication between federal HIT – SLHIE initiatives
 - Public-private successor to the American Health Information community
 - Funding for demonstrations of SLHIE use cases
 - Standards harmonization across levels
- No silver bullet for long term financial sustainability for SLHIE
 - Beyond the demonstrated success of single types of HIE service
 - Address the emerging needs for aggregated data e.g. quality, biosurveillance
 - Must incorporate participation by public payers e.g. Medicaid

Extension Findings

- HIE and Medicaid
 - Federal support for Medicaid’s involvement in state level HIE
 - Demonstrate ROI showing Medicaid cost savings or efficiencies
- Align and integrate initiatives related to quality, transparency and HIE at state and federal levels
 - Cost effective access to data for quality initiatives
 - Aggregation of secondary data
 - Stakeholder engagement and alignment

State level HIE Consensus Project - 2007 Project Design

- Expanded and enhanced
 - Mining state experiences and perspectives (Steering Committee and beyond)
 - Collaboration and communication strategies across projects (e-HealthInitiative, HIMSS, NCSL, NGA)
 - Sharpening the focus of the questions, broadening the discussion

SLHIE 2007 Consensus Project - desired outcomes

- Support SLHIE implementation and sustainability
 - Approach to determining necessary and appropriate SLHIE institutional credentials and processes
 - Escalate consensus regarding SLHIE infomediary role as a “public good”
 - Promote financing strategies related to information and the public good for immediate and sustained SLHIE support
- Maintain ongoing collaboration and alignment
 - Federal- state
 - Public –private
 - Incentives and initiatives that promote transformation for value: HIE, quality, transparency

SLHIE 2007 Consensus Project – Research Questions

- Key questions:
 1. What are current best practices and models in governance? What are current best practices in HIE Services?
 2. What is being learned about achieving financial sustainability
 3. What are the emerging best practices in information management?
 4. What are the potential criteria to enable state level HIEs to join, affiliate with, or be credentialed by a national organization?

SLHIE 2007 Consensus Project – Research Process

1. Field research for each topic
2. e-roundtable meetings to invite broad feedback.
3. Steering Committee to consider broader policy implications.
4. Publish Project Report and update versions of the *State-Level Health Information Exchange Initiative Development Workbook: A Guide to Key Issues, Options and Strategies* to reflect new learning.
5. Disseminate the study results via Webinars and other public domain mechanisms, including the AHRQ HIT Resource center

Resources and key contacts

State level HIE Consensus Project –
www.Staterhio.org

Lynn Dierker, RN, project director

AHIMA – Linda Kloss, CEO

FORE – Eileen Murray, VP

www.ahima.org