



# Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC): Washington State's Proposal

**Jonathan R. Sugarman, MD, MPH**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Qualis Health

CHITA Forum XVIII  
March 21, 2006

# Objectives

---

- Briefly review the background and context of HISPC
- Describe the requirements of the request for proposal
- Describe Washington States's proposed approach
- Describe ( and actualize!) efforts to engage stakeholders

# Background and Context

# Four key components of the DHHS health information technology plan for achieving nationwide health care data exchange

---

1. Standards Harmonization Process
2. Compliance Certification Process
3. Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) Process
4. Privacy and Security Assessment (HISPC)

# 1. Standards Harmonization Process

---

- Develop, create prototypes for, and evaluate a process to unify and harmonize industry-wide health IT standards development, maintenance and refinements over time.
  - Contract awarded to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to convene the Health Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP). (\$3.3 million)

## 2. Compliance Certification Process

---

- Develop, create prototypes for, and evaluate a conformance certification process for health IT, including the infrastructure or network components through which health IT systems interoperate.
  - Contract awarded to the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT) to develop criteria and evaluation processes for certifying EHRs and the infrastructure or network components through which they interoperate. (\$2.7 million)

## 3. NHIN Demonstrations

---

- Develop, and create prototypes for, and evaluate a nationwide health information network (NHIN) architecture for widespread health information exchange that can be used to test specialized network functions, security protections and monitoring, and demonstrate feasibility of scalable models.
  - Contracts to Accenture, Computer Science Corporation, IBM, and Northrup Grumman (\$18.6 million)

## 4. Privacy and Security Assessment

---

- Assess and develop plans to address variations in organization-level business policies and state laws that affect privacy and security practices, including those related to HIPAA, which may pose challenges to interoperable health information exchange (e.g., electronic medical records, e-prescribing, and e-billing).
  - Contract awarded to Research Triangle Institute International (RTI) (\$11.5 million) with the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA) → HISPC

# What is the Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC)?

---

“A multidisciplinary team of experts in privacy and security law and in health care management as well as up to 40 state or territorial governments. Together, this team will implement a process to address variations in organization-level business policies and state laws that affect privacy and security practices that may pose challenges to interoperable health information exchange.”

# HISPC RFP Process

---

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) / Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) contracted with RTI
- RTI released RFP to all Governors
- Up to 40 individual state projects will be funded and awards expected to range between \$150,000 to \$350,000
- Strong encouragement of matching funds and co-investment with cash or in-kind contributions from state, federal, and private sources

# Overview of HISPC: Goals

---

- Assess variations in organization-level business policies and state laws that affect health information exchange in its state or territory
- Work closely with RTI, NGA, and other states to exchange information and experiences regarding interoperable HIE barriers and best practices

## Overview of HISPC: Goals (cont.)

---

- Identify and propose practical solutions that protect privacy and security of health information and permit interoperable health information exchange
- Develop plans to implement solutions in its state, and, if applicable, at the federal level

# HISPC Structure: Stakeholders and Steering Committee

---

- Steering Committee
- Stakeholder Groups
- Stakeholder Community

# Structure: Working Groups

---

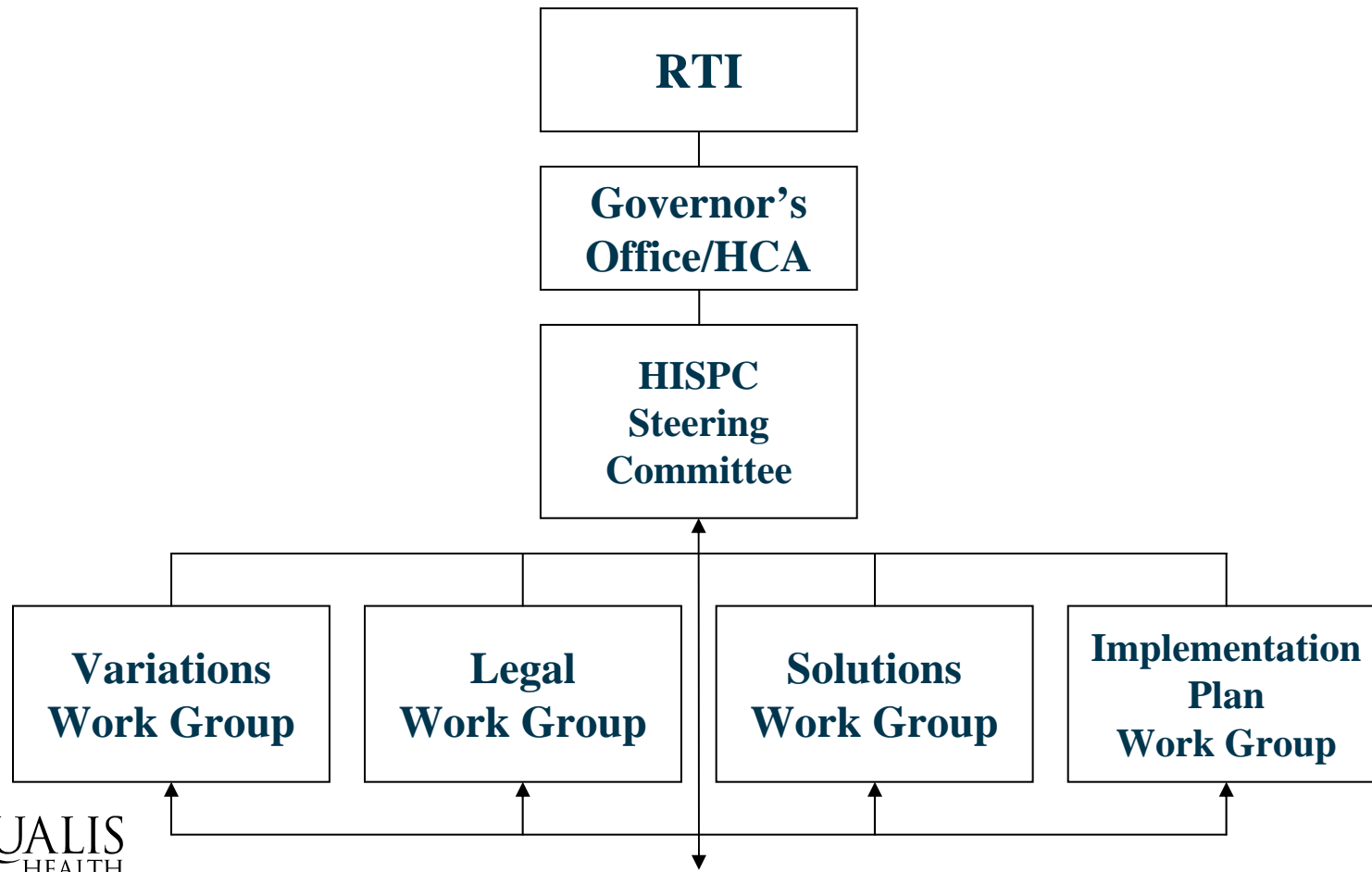
- State Variations Working Group (SVWG)
- State Legal Working Group (SLWG)
- State Solutions Working Group (SSWG)
- State Implementation Plan Working Group (SIPWG)
- Ad Hoc Working Groups (AWG)

# Washington State Program Model

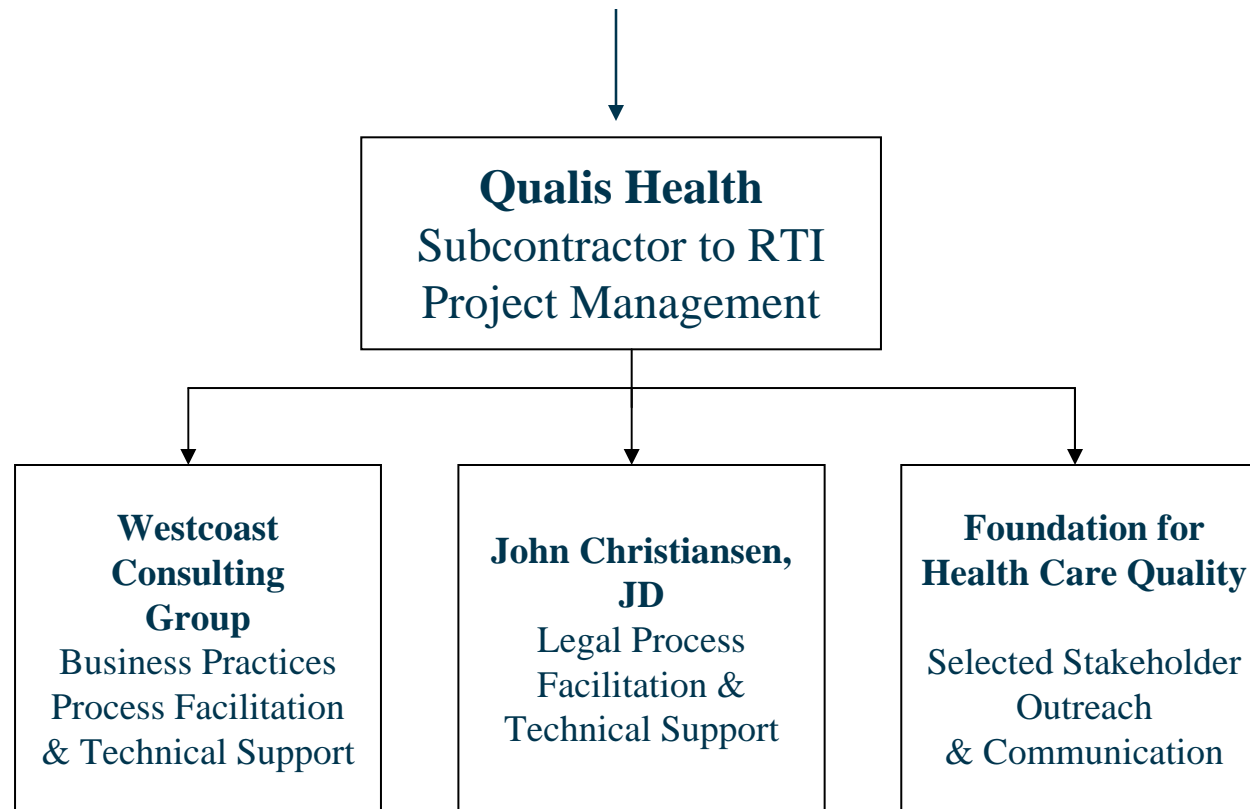
---

- Governor delegated HISPC to the Health Care Authority (HCA)
- HCA designated Qualis Health to design and manage HISPC on behalf of Washington State
- Qualis Health formed structure with consultants and key stakeholders
  - Westcoast Consulting Group – business practices, process facilitation, and technical support
  - Christiansen IT Law – legal process facilitation & technical support
  - Foundation for Healthcare Quality – selected stakeholder and outreach communication

# Washington State Program Model



# Washington State Program Model (cont.)



# Request for Proposal Timeframes

---

- RFP issued January 4, 2006
- Proposal submitted March 1, 2006
- Subcontracts anticipated to be signed by selected states on April 28, 2006

# Project Timeframes

---

- Kick-off meetings from April 28 - May 15, 2006
- Work plan due on May 26, 2006
- Training sessions from June 2 – June 22, 2006
- Interim assessment of variation report due on August 25, 2006
- Interim analysis of solutions report due on October 16, 2006

## Project Timeframes (cont.)

---

- Interim implementation plan report due on November 16, 2006
- State and Regional Workshops to be held from October 20 – November 22, 2006
- National meeting in February 2007
- Final assessment and analysis report due on March 30, 2007
- Final state implementation plan report due on March 30, 2007

# Caveat...

- **It is only a proposal so far**
- **As such, it is subject to:**
  - Not being funded at all
  - Being funded at a lower level than requested, with significant leeway in modification of the proposed approach
  - Being funded at a lower level than requested, and with directed changes in approach
  - Being funded at full amount, but with directed changes in approach,

etc.

# Next Steps, Support, and Assistance

---

- Identify potential stakeholder groups
- Identify potential members of working groups
- Identify potential subject matter experts
- Communicate support for this project to other stakeholders, including state and private groups

# Additional Information

---

- RTI Website  
➤ <http://www.rti.org/>
- NGA Center for Best Practices Website  
➤ <http://www.nga.org/>
- AHRQ National Resource Center for Health Information Technology  
➤ <http://healthit.ahrq.gov/>