

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What is the Redwood Health Information Collaborative?

The Collaborative is a community-based planning project funded by a one year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Collaborative will convene a Steering Committee to develop operations and governance solutions for a local Health Information Exchange (HIE) participating as a Sub-Network Organization (SNO) in the development of the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN).

The Collaborative is led by the Mendocino County Department of Public Health. Local clinicians and health care consumers can benefit from the following opportunities for improved surveillance and communications created by the participation of Public Health in a local HIE:

- Improved reporting of disease events from clinical workflows at all local sites of care
- Improved quality of data available to the Department of Public Health
- Clinically relevant alerts provided from the Department of Public Health to local health care providers, or to the California Department of Health Services

The Steering Committee is launched in collaboration with Redwood MedNet and Mendocino SHARE. Redwood MedNet, a community-based nonprofit, is building a clinical messaging solution for the local health care community. Redwood MedNet is also the operating entity for Mendocino HRE, a participant in an NHIN Prototype contract with the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC). Mendocino SHARE is a small HIE operated by the Alliance for Rural Community Health (ARCH), a consortium of safety net clinics. ARCH seeks to transition responsibility for the functionality of SHARE to another community-based entity as soon as practical. Public Health, Redwood MedNet, and ARCH see this as an opportunity to expand HIE activities from the safety net clinics to the entire health care sector in Mendocino County.

What plans will the Collaborative deliver?

In January Public Health will convene a Steering Committee to answer the following questions.

- (1) What are the strategic goals for a Health Information Exchange?
- (2) What is the sustainable business model for a Health Information Exchange?
- (3) What governance model is best to operate a Health Information Exchange?
- (4) What legal and policy issues must be addressed to launch and operate a Health Information Exchange?

Project Web Site -- <http://mendocinohre.org/rhic/index.html>



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