

eHealth Initiative and Foundation At a Glance

Our Mission

The eHealth Initiative and its Foundation are independent, non-profit affiliated organizations whose missions are the same: to drive improvement in the quality, safety, and efficiency of healthcare through information and information technology.

Our Strategic Priorities

1. **Align incentives and promote public and private sector investment** in improving America's healthcare through health information technology (HIT), electronic connectivity, and health information exchange.
2. **Develop the field** to enable more widespread and effective implementation of HIT and health information exchange, with a special focus on practicing clinicians and state, regional and community-based health information organizations.
3. **Continue to drive the adoption of standards** to promote an interoperable, interconnected healthcare system.

Our Members

The eHealth Initiative represents the multiple and diverse stakeholders in healthcare who want to improve health and healthcare through information and information technology, including consumer and patient groups, employers and purchasers, health plans, HIT suppliers, hospitals, laboratories, medical and pharmaceutical device manufacturers, practicing clinicians, public health agencies, quality improvement/standards organizations, and state, regional and community-based health information organizations. In addition, the eHealth Initiative Foundation works closely with leaders in the public sector through its various public-private sector partnerships.

How We are Funded

With total annual revenues of approximately \$3 million, the eHealth Initiative and its Foundation are funded by a combination of federal agency and philanthropy grants, private sector contributions, membership dues, and fees for services and products such as conferences, meetings and publications. A majority of our funding comes from grants and contributions from independent agencies and foundations.

Our Approach to Driving Change

Our approach for driving change is to engage the multiple, diverse stakeholders within healthcare to develop workable solutions for accelerating the adoption of IT and an electronic health information infrastructure to support our common quality, safety and efficiency goals. To facilitate this

approach, we review, evaluate and develop models to advance policy goals; engage those who can effect and are impacted by change; develop and disseminate resources and tools to support implementation; and educate those who can implement change.

Our Programs

- **Connecting Communities for Better Health Program.** Conducted by the eHealth Initiative in cooperation with the Health Resources and Services Administration, this \$11 million program is providing seed funding and technical support to state, regional and community-based health information organizations and initiatives across the country.
- **Working Group for Connecting Communities.** Chaired by Mark Frisse, MD, MBA, Director, Regional Health Initiatives, Vanderbilt Center for Better Health and J. Marc Overhage, MD, PhD, CEO, Indiana Health Information Exchange, this Working Group is supporting the development, vetting, and sharing of knowledge, resources and tools related to health information exchange. Key deliverables in 2005 include the assessment and inventory of current health information exchange across the country; assessment tool for health information organizations; and consensus on key “principles” to guide health information exchange—technical, financial, organizational, legal, clinical.
- **State HIT Policy Summit Initiative.** This initiative is comprised of a series of activities that bring state policy officials together with healthcare, consumer and business leaders to improve healthcare quality, safety and efficiency through HIT. It will assist state and local leaders by conducting a range of interviews, research and other information gathering activities and facilitating the conduct of “state summit meetings” to support an increase in state and local awareness of federal HIT policy, the value proposition for state investment, state law and legal issues that impact the use of HIT, and input regarding the work of other states and regions across the country.
- **Working Group for Financing and Incentives.** Chaired by Marianne E. DeFazio, Director, Global Health Benefits, IBM and John Glaser, PhD, Vice President and Chief Information Officer, Partners HealthCare System, this Working Group is developing consensus among multiple, diverse stakeholders on a set of financing and incentives policy options that will improve the quality, safety and effectiveness of healthcare through information technology and electronic connectivity.
- **Working Group on HIT for Small Medical Practices.** Co-chaired by Peter Basch, MD, Medical Director, eHealth, Medstar Health, Co-Chair of PEHRC and David Kibbe, MD, Director, Center for Information Technology, AAFP and Co-Chair of PEHRC, this Group is developing practical work products and strategies to improve the value proposition of EHRs and

other HIT products and services aimed at the small and medium size ambulatory care sector; increase adoption of HIT products and services; and support clinicians in improving quality, enhancing safety, and increasing efficiency.

- **eHI Employer Purchaser Advisory Board.** This Group is engaging employer-purchasers to take actions, including those related to financing and incentives, to support standards-based HIT, electronic connectivity, and health information exchange.
- **Working Group for the Leadership in Global Health Technology Initiative.** Chaired by Susan Penfield, Vice President of Booz Allen Hamilton, this Group is facilitating learning, information sharing, and collaboration globally regarding the basic requirements, key barriers, and strategies for implementing HIT and health information infrastructure to support better health and healthcare.
- **Policy Working Group.** Co-chaired by Bob Doherty, Senior Vice President/Public Affairs and Policy, American College of Physicians and Ned McCulloch, Senior Executive Government Affairs of IBM, this Group is educating policy-makers and driving policy change to support a higher quality, safer and more efficient healthcare system through information and information technology.
- **AHRQ National Resource Center for HIT.** eHealth Initiative Foundation is a partner in a collaboration led by NORC that includes the Center for Information Technology Leadership, Regenstrief Institute/Indiana University, Vanderbilt Center for Better Health and the Computer Sciences Corporation, which is developing and operating the AHRQ National Resource Center for Health Information Technology, providing support to 108 AHRQ grantees/contracts, federal partners as well as the field in general.