

AHIC Successor, Inc.

Advancing the Future of Health IT

Laura J. Miller, MPA, FACHE
Interim Executive Director, AHIC Successor, Inc.

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Overview

- Impact of health IT in the health care system
- Barriers that exist to the adoption of health IT
- Federal government efforts to address the nation's needs
- Advancing the future of health IT: AHIC Successor, Inc.
- The Value Case approach
- Benefits of public-private partnership
- Role of key stakeholders in the development of a secure interoperable nationwide health information system

Health IT Is Critical to the Evolution of the U.S. Health Care System

- Secure exchange of health information is needed to realize the benefits of a new generation of medicine that is predictive, preemptive, personalized, and participatory.
- Health IT adoption can improve health care quality, prevent medical errors, and reduce health care costs, cutting as much as \$80 billion per year in health costs.*
- Interoperable health IT will bring public health benefits, including:
 - Early detection of infectious disease outbreaks around the country
 - Improved tracking of chronic disease management
 - Evaluation of health care based on value, enabled by the collection of de-identified price and quality information that can be compared

Developing and harmonizing IT standards in order to advance the interoperability of health information across providers will improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of health care for all Americans.

Barriers Exist to Successful Health IT Integration

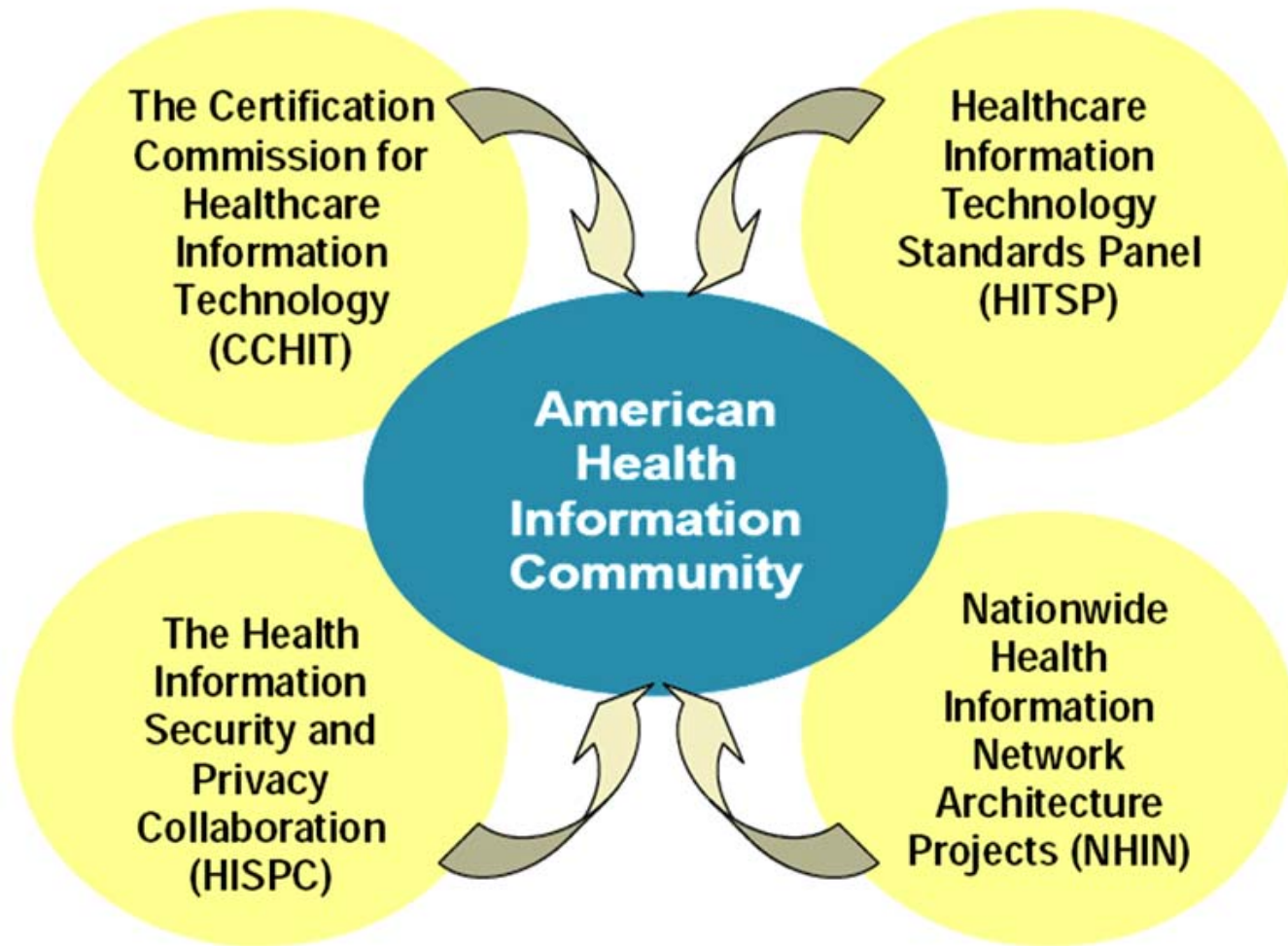
- Limited technical capacity for harmonization and specification standards
- Cultural disincentives
- Legal impediments
- Conflicting state and Federal laws
- Availability of capital needed by members for implementation and adoption of electronic health information systems
- Absence of critical infrastructure needed to connect members

Technical barriers associated with a lack of clear and nationally recognized interoperability standards results in lack of health IT adoption.

Addressing the Need to Develop a Nationwide Health IT Infrastructure

- **Executive Order** issued in 2004 announcing the government's commitment to using health IT to reduce medical errors, increase efficiency, and give consumers and physicians better information
- **Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC)** created within the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
 - Provides counsel to the Secretary of DHHS and Departmental leadership for the development and nationwide implementation of an interoperable health information technology infrastructure
 - Supports the Secretary of DHHS in achieving the President's goal for most Americans to have access to an interoperable electronic medical record by 2014

DHHS Established the Current Framework to Support the Adoption and Use of Health IT



American Health Information Community (AHIC)

- Established in 2005 by DHHS Secretary Michael O. Leavitt
- Composed of public and private sector leaders
- Created a forum to seek input and guidance to understand the key issues and policy implications necessary to achieve the goal for most Americans to have access to secure electronic health records by 2014
- Advised the Secretary of Health and Human Services on how to accelerate the development and adoption of interoperable health IT, specifically:
 - Making health records digital and interoperable
 - Providing assurance that privacy and security of health information are protected
- Established as an interim organization that is scheduled to sunset in December 2008 at which time its successor, a private-sector health information community initiative, will become the focal point for health IT harmonization

AHIC Successor, Inc.: Transitioning the Focal Point of Harmonization Activities

- Designed to build on the accomplishments of the federally-chartered AHIC in the private sector
- Built through efforts of a broad range of health IT stakeholders nationwide and incorporated on July 17, 2008
- Establishes a balanced, effective, and sustainable public-private collaboration among organizations and individuals in all sectors of the health community
- Will facilitate successful health IT adoption that promotes interoperability through strong standards, while ensuring confidentiality, privacy, and security for patients

Key Strengths of AHIC Successor Structure

- Flexible funding streams based both on membership dues and value of specific activities to stakeholders to support a self-sustained entity
- Inclusive public-private Board of Directors composition with dedicated government and consumer representation, to achieve progress not otherwise possible
- Leadership and membership structure committed to transparency and openness in its activities
- Value proposition planned to reach every member segment
- Strong ties to HITSP and CCHIT and on-going Federal government participation of the Board of Directors, committee, and operational levels to ensure a focus on practical, relevant interoperability
- Ongoing collaboration with ONC and NHIN stakeholders to define and advance NHIN governance

AHIC Successor Operations Development

- AHIC Successor, Inc. was incorporated on July 17, 2008
- HHS grant successfully awarded to AHIC Successor on August 29
- Basic operational infrastructure put in place
- Board of Directors nominated and selected with first meeting on November 13
- Recruitment begun for permanent President/CEO
- Bylaws posted and received public comment
- Membership guidelines development underway
- Value Case prioritization process in development

The Time Is Right to Refine the Prioritization Process

- Progress toward interoperable health information has been made, yet there is still much to be done
- Prioritization of interoperability initiatives is moving from AHIC to the AHIC Successor, Inc.
 - AHIC Inc. must accelerate interoperability initiatives
- AHIC has prioritized Use Cases for this coming year . . .
- . . . Therefore, AHIC Inc. has a short window of opportunity to improve the prioritization process before the next set of priorities enters the queue

A Value Case Prioritization Process

- Value Case describes an aspect of healthcare where
 - specific, identifiable harmonization standards can be identified;
 - use of a standardized approach can clearly increase quality and/or reduce costs of care for patients; and
 - if the value case were completed, there is clear reason to believe that health IT adoption would increase

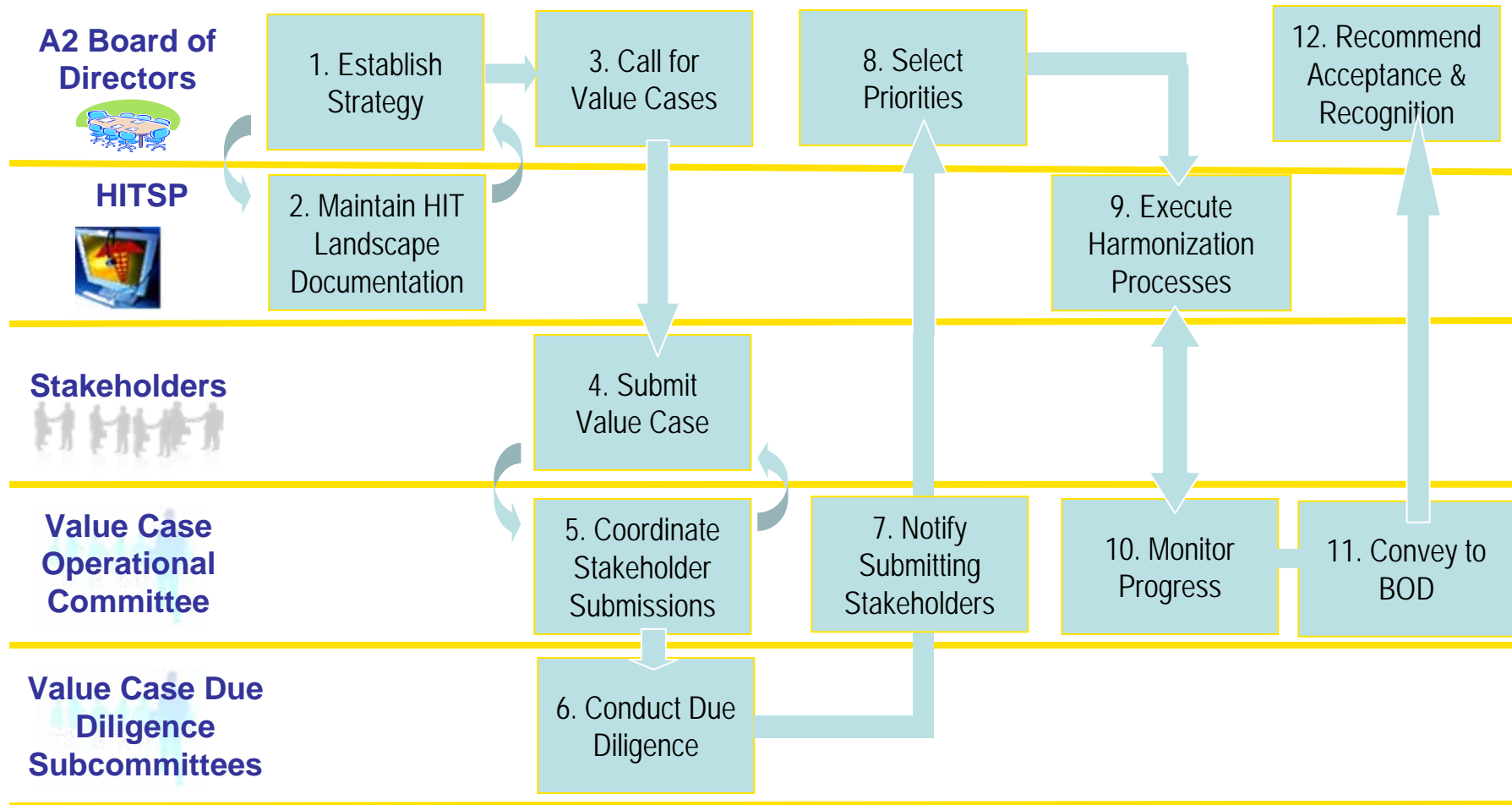
A Value Case Approach Can Accelerate Adoption of Interoperable Health IT

- **Broader stakeholder input:** The notion of a “Value Case” encompasses the concepts of healthcare communities (public and private) uniting to identify and harmonize interoperability standards
 - Clearly articulates how these standards generate meaningful value propositions to stakeholders and drive health IT adoption
- **Collaborative process with stakeholders:** The process of creating a value case brings leaders from the broader healthcare community together to become champions for specific aspects of healthcare
 - Brings real world perspectives to both the problems and solutions of health IT
- **Funding and impact identification:** A value-based and stakeholder-initiated prioritization process can re-energize the health information community and syndicate the effort and costs associated with interoperability initiatives
 - More value cases can be supported within each cycle
 - Focus can more readily expand beyond care delivery into clinical research and public health

Accelerating Standards Harmonization Process through the Value Case Approach

- Strengthens stakeholder commitment to standards because stakeholders are participating in the process
- Provides more stakeholder control over which value cases/standards are pursued
- Provides more emphasis on the value proposition of the proposed set of standards

Value Case Prioritization Process: *An Overview*



Benefits to Becoming a Member of AHIC Successor

Key Stakeholder Group



Value Propositions

- **Consumers**
- Employers
- Government and Public Health (Federal, State, Community)
- Health Care Providers
- Health Informatics, Research, and Academia
- Health Plans and Other Payers
- Infrastructure and Standards (Technical)
- Other Health Entities (Pharma, Labs, Device Manufacturers, etc.)
- Quality
- Vendors and Consultants

- Inform and shape the health IT debate
- Improve quality of care through interoperability
- Improve value and utility of patient-centric applications through data-sharing
- Participate in the priority-setting process
- Represent consumers' diverse needs in technical standards related to privacy and security
- Realize lower health care costs through reduction in medical errors and redundancy

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- Provide nationwide avenue to affect cross-state and cross-sector issues
- Improve ability to promote health behaviors and associated costs
- Participate in priority-setting for standards
- Monitor federal actions regarding reimbursement policies
- Provide public forum to enable harmonization of technologies and policies
- Build corporate image as “Good Corporate Citizen”
- Improve industry/government collaboration and information exchange

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- Shape the creation of interoperability standards
 - Provide access to a key link between government policy-setting and standards development
 - Collaborate with private-sector to achieve “public good”
 - Improve government access to business and technology leaders
 - Enable potential for discovery as a by-product of implementation

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- Create a forum for participating as an equal partners in setting nationwide priorities for health IT
- Improve benefits of consistency and a reduction in duplicative tests
- Realize a more accurate and fair assessment of provider performance
- Ensure priorities are set in areas that have the greatest potential for standards to improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of care coordination
- Provide access to a possible branding mechanism that can act as a guarantor of the efficiency, mitigating risk to adopters
- Improve utility of vendor products that support provider needs

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- Improve ability to plan for future data capture and use capabilities
- Improve industry/government/academic collaboration and information exchange
- Participate in priority-setting for standards that federal health programs will adopt
- Improve ability to effect change within the health care system in an operational setting
- Enhance ability to discern possible research opportunities in areas not commonly thought of today
- Create a common understanding of policy and direction

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- Participate in priority-setting for standards that federal health programs will adopt
 - Monitor federal actions regarding reimbursement policies
 - Enhance quality and efficiency of care coordination between hospitals and physicians
 - Have access to a public platform to enable harmonization of technologies and policies
 - Build corporate image as “Good Corporate Citizen”
 - Improve industry/government collaboration and information exchange

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- Be a voice in shaping overall direction of standards harmonization and prioritization
- Create a competitive advantage over non-member organizations in designing and creating standards based on likely future industry movements

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- Be a voice in shaping overall direction of standards harmonization and prioritization
 - Create a competitive advantage over non-member organizations in designing and creating standards based on likely future industry movements
 - Strengthen ability to provide products that provide value to customers
 - Build a corporate image as “Good Corporate Citizen”
 - Allow for industry/industry collaboration without fear of anti-trust
 - Enhance ability to discern possible research opportunities in areas not commonly thought of today
 - Create a common understanding of policy and direction

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- Participate in priority-setting for standards that federal and private-sector health programs will adopt
- Accelerate the path toward improved quality of care through interoperability standards that will support the provision of more complete and accurate health records
- Have access to a public platform to enable harmonization of technologies and policies to inform quality improvement
- Improve industry/government collaboration and information exchange
- Have opportunity to integrate new standards and measures that augment claims data for ease of front-line use
- Have opportunity to provide proper surveillance of the possible effects of quality measures throughout the community

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- Have access to a public platform to enable identification of interoperability direction, quantify stepwise value, and create a plan to implement necessary standards
- Strengthen ability to provide products that provide value to customers
- Contribute to the organization's work in order to impact future product design/requirements
- Improve opportunities to participate in field testing of standards
- Implement effective planning for future product requirements
- Build a corporate image as "Good Corporate Citizen"
- Improve industry/government collaboration and information exchange
- Allow for industry/industry collaboration without fear of anti-trust

Opportunities for Member Organizations

- Set priorities as well as identify and quantify opportunities for standards adoption
- Participate in the development and governance of the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN)
- Provide expertise on policies related to an interoperable, standards-based electronic health care system
- Support the implementation of standards through market-driven approaches
- Provide and share technical resources
- Initiate and/or participate in Value Case development

Opportunities for Involvement

- Need strong leadership from across all sectors of the health care community for the successful adoption of a nationwide, interoperable health information system
- Join the AHIC Successor listserv to be connected to new developments
- **Seek ways to educate your organization on the importance of standards harmonization and interoperability**

Contact Information

Website: www.ahicsuccessor.org

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Email: lmiller@ahicsuccessor.org