

Colorado Health IT Roadmap Project Overview

Objectives, Strategies, and Actionable Initiatives to Support
Best Care, Best Health, Best Value

Introduction

Office of eHealth Innovation (OeHI) has initiated a project to develop a comprehensive, health information technology and health information exchange (HIT/HIE) plan for Colorado (called the Colorado Health IT Roadmap). The plan will define Colorado's HIT/HIE objectives and strategies and recommend specific initiatives to accomplish those objectives. As the state's comprehensive HIT/HIE plan, it will serve as both a sounding board for reviewing current projects and a springboard for defining future HIT/HIE-related projects and initiatives in Colorado.

Mosaica Partners, nationally recognized health information strategy consultants, has been engaged by OeHI to assist Colorado to develop its HIT/HIE plan. Mosaica's principals authored *The Health Information Exchange Formation Guide*, published by HIMSS; a "book of the year" award winner. Mosaica has assisted in the formation of many HIEs, helped the boards of HIEs in both Texas and Michigan wanting to integrate their operations under single entities, assessed multiple states' HITECH-mandated HIT strategic and operational plans, designed and conducted state HIE collaborative agreement program evaluations, provided market intelligence and technical assistance to HIT/HIE vendors, and designed and facilitated scores of HIT/HIE educational and workshop sessions that involved payers, physicians, patients, hospitals, and state agency leaders.

Colorado will utilize Mosaica's proven statewide HIT/HIE planning process, which was recently employed to produce similar comprehensive statewide HIT/HIE plans for Arizona and Vermont.

Colorado has many agencies, departments, organizations, and workgroups planning or actively managing projects, programs, and initiatives that are impacted by HIT/HIE. Because these activities were funded through multiple funding channels and are managed by multiple organizations, there is a high probability of both gaps and overlaps as they strive to support better health outcomes and increase value.

The development of a statewide HIT/HIE plan provides an opportunity for OeHI and the eHealth Commission to understand and focus these efforts to ensure that Colorado optimizes its HIT/HIE investments and receives the best possible results.

What's the process?

Mosaica's approach to developing statewide HIT/HIE plans involves significant stakeholder participation throughout the length of the project. The project began by establishing a "core project team" – comprised of representatives of OeHI, Department of Health Care Policy & Financing, and Mosaica – which is now in place. The core project team's current focus is on understanding the HIT/HIE environment in Colorado. Interviews of health care community leaders and influencers, reviews of related documents, and Mosaica-led workshops will all be used to further develop that understanding. Next, through a series of educational sessions and facilitated envisioning workshops around the state, the core project team will develop and validate Colorado's statewide HIT/HIE objectives – what the plan aims to accomplish.

Once the project has identified the infrastructure elements necessary to be in place to accomplish the plan's objectives, a gap analysis will be performed to determine the delta between what is needed and what Colorado currently has in place. The identified gaps will be addressed by defining actionable initiatives. The result, for Colorado, is a focus on those things that have the highest payback in terms of using HIT/HIE to support its statewide health care reform efforts.

What is the eHealth Commission's Role?

The core project team is requesting that the eHealth Commission act as the project's steering committee. We believe this role is consistent with the charge given in the Executive Order that established OeHI and the eHealth Commission. In addition, because its members are already recognized as leaders in Colorado's health care community, the advice and guidance from the eHealth Commission will provide valuable insights to the project.

The role of the steering committee is to provide the core team with oversight, advice, guidance, and counsel. During the course of the project the steering committee will also provide substantive review of, and input to, the project's approaches, activities, and outputs. This will involve active participation of eHealth Commission members throughout the course of the project.

We anticipate that a portion of each month's eHealth Commission meetings will be devoted to some activity related to the plan's development. The eHealth Commission members will also be invited to attend and participate in at least one of the envisioning workshops that will be held around the state in September.

Summary

Participating in the development of Colorado's statewide HIT/HIE plan is an opportunity for OeHI, the eHealth Commission, and Colorado's health care community to take a broad and holistic look at the health information technology environment, understand and rationalize current HIT/HIE activities, define specific objectives to be achieved in the next 3-5 years, and develop actionable initiatives to support the Governor's health policy agenda, The State of Health: Colorado's Commitment to Become the Healthiest State.