ONC Social Determinants of Health Information Exchange Learning Forum

Background

The capacity to capture, exchange, analyze, use, and integrate individual-level and aggregated population-level health and social determinants of health (SDOH) data is a critical factor in supporting initiatives that address individuals' social needs and health inequities.

Through investments in information technology, capabilities of electronic health records (EHRs), health information exchanges (HIEs), community resource referral networks, and other care coordination platforms are being extended to address SDOH. For example, such systems can help identify social needs, coordinate services, measure outcomes, implement predictive analytics, conduct research, engage in collaborative community resource planning, and more.

Purpose

The Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Information Exchange Learning Forum brings together health care providers, community-based organizations, government, payers, health information exchange networks, IT platform developers, innovators, and other partners to share lessons learned, challenges, and promising practices related to exchanging SDOH data.
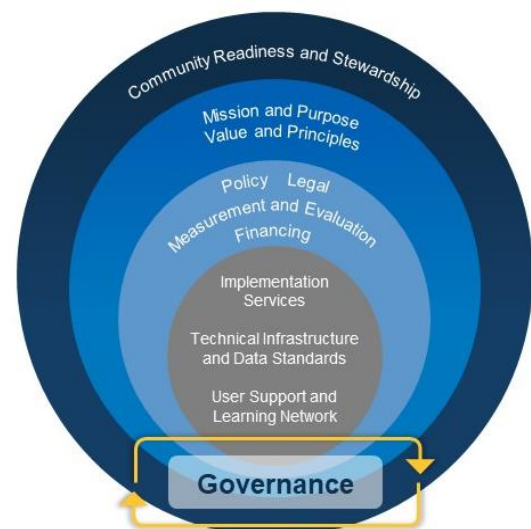
SDOH Information Exchange Foundational Elements

ONC convened a Technical Expert Panel (TEP) in 2021 on SDOH information exchange to develop a set of SDOH information exchange foundational elements. These foundational elements are intended to inform and advance SDOH information exchange initiatives. The SDOH Information Exchange Learning Forum will explore these elements in depth, leveraging a forthcoming toolkit that provides descriptions of the elements along with useful case studies.

The Draft Foundational Elements include:

- **Community Readiness and Stewardship:** Exploring the existing landscape in the geographic area and/or population of focus, assessing the capacity and willingness of the community to participate, and developing stakeholders' shared rights and responsibilities through the process of co-design, evaluation, and decision-making.
- **Mission and Purpose:** The intention of an initiative, ideally explicitly stated, that addresses the various value propositions of stakeholder groups, as well as the vision, scope of services, and expected benefits.
- **Values and Principles:** Standards for establishing a framework for action, including ethical decision-making in pursuit of health equity.

Social Determinants of Health Information Exchange Foundational Elements

Community Readiness and Stewardship
Mission and Purpose
Value and Principles
Policy Legal
Measurement and Evaluation
Financing
Implementation Services
Technical Infrastructure and Data Standards
User Support and Learning Network
Governance

- **Financing:** Funding opportunities, sources, and plans for investments, ongoing costs, opportunities for blended approaches, and incentives for community adoption and use.
- **Implementation Services:** Inclusive of technical services (e.g., defining requirements, standards specifications, and integration with existing infrastructure and services) and programmatic services (e.g., defining use cases, workflow design/redesign), as well as support for adoption and utilization by individuals and the community.
- **Technical Infrastructure and Data Standards:** Alignment of hardware, software, data, processes, and standards to enable scalable and interoperable data and IT systems.
- **Legal:** Establishing the framework of processes and operations, along with rights and obligations, to support data use and sharing and to support compliance with Federal, state, local and tribal laws.
- **Policy:** Consideration of federal, state, and local policy levers to advance the ability to collect, share, and use standardized SDOH data, as well as collaboration and alignment with other relevant efforts in the community, region, and/or state for collective impact and improved outcomes.
- **Measurement and Evaluation:** Monitoring and evaluation of performance metrics, individual and population outcomes, program effectiveness, and quality management and improvement.
- **User Support and Learning Network:** User support and learning network activities include assessment of community challenges and needs, education, communication, training, technical assistance, peer-to-peer learning, and identification of promising practices and lessons learned.
- **Governance:** Decision-making processes and groups, including as relates to institutional, administrative, and data governance.

Learn More

For more information on the ONC SDOH Information Exchange Learning Forum, including upcoming webinars, contact oncsdohlearningforum@hhs.gov.