Health Information Exchange Governance

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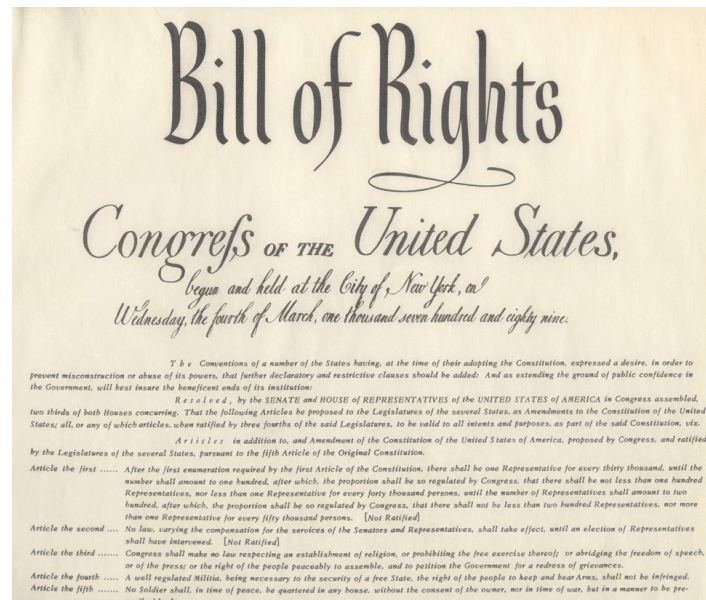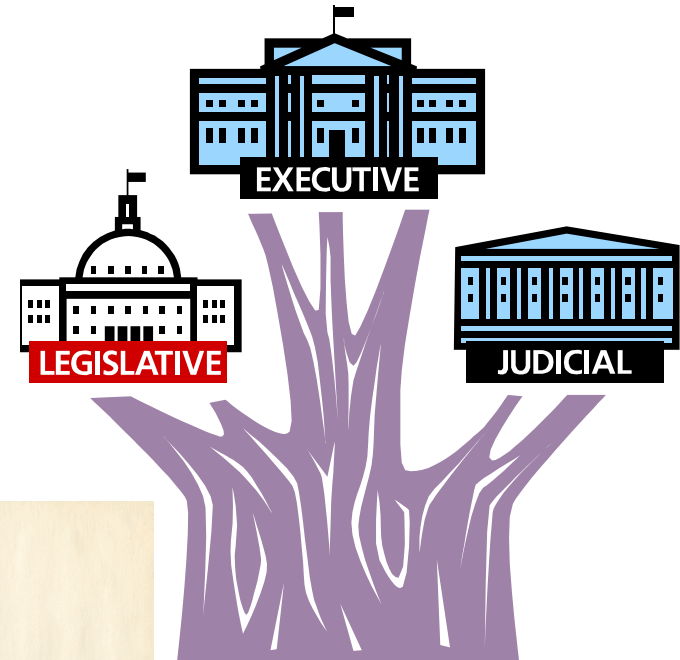**Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC)**

- What is governance?
- Where does ONC fit in?
- What have we done so far?
- Where are we headed?

What is Governance?

Wikipedia Definition

- **Governance** refers to "all processes of governing, whether undertaken by a government, market or network, whether over a family, tribe, formal or informal organization or territory and whether through laws, norms, power or language."[1] It relates to processes and decisions that seek to define actions, grant power and verify performance.

- Can occurs in three broad ways:
    - Public-private partnerships
    - Market mechanisms (may operate under government regulation) OR
    - Governments

[1] Bevir, Mark (2013). *Governance: A very short introduction*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

EXECUTIVE

LEGISLATIVE

JUDICIAL

Bill of Rights

9/16/2014

4

Before HITECH → HITECH Act → Moving Forward

Governance Pre-HITECH

- **Request for Information – Nov. 2004**
  - Input regarding the best mechanisms to achieve nationwide interoperability to meet the goal of interconnecting clinicians
- **Public-Private Partnership Efforts**
  - Government based: American Health Information Community
    - Federal Advisory Committee
    - Breakthrough efforts
  - Private based: National e-Health Collaborative

Before HITECH   HITECH Act   Since HITECH

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ONC Role

HITECH Act - Required ONC to establish a "governance mechanism for the nationwide health information network."

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The establishment and oversight of a common set of behaviors, policies, and standards that enable trusted electronic health information exchange among a set of participants.

HIE Governance Focus

Health information exchange at a national level, to address challenges to exchange between different exchange organizations and across state boundaries.

Background HIE Governance

- **Public Input**
  - Health IT Policy Committee Recommendations – December 2010
  - RFI - Nationwide Health Information Network: Conditions for Trusted Exchange - May 2012
- **Response**
  - ONC announced decision not to continue with formal rulemaking process - September 2012

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ONC Governance Activities

Over the past 2 years:

- Cooperative Agreements

- Framework of Principles

- HIE Governance Forum

- Monitor Exchange Progress

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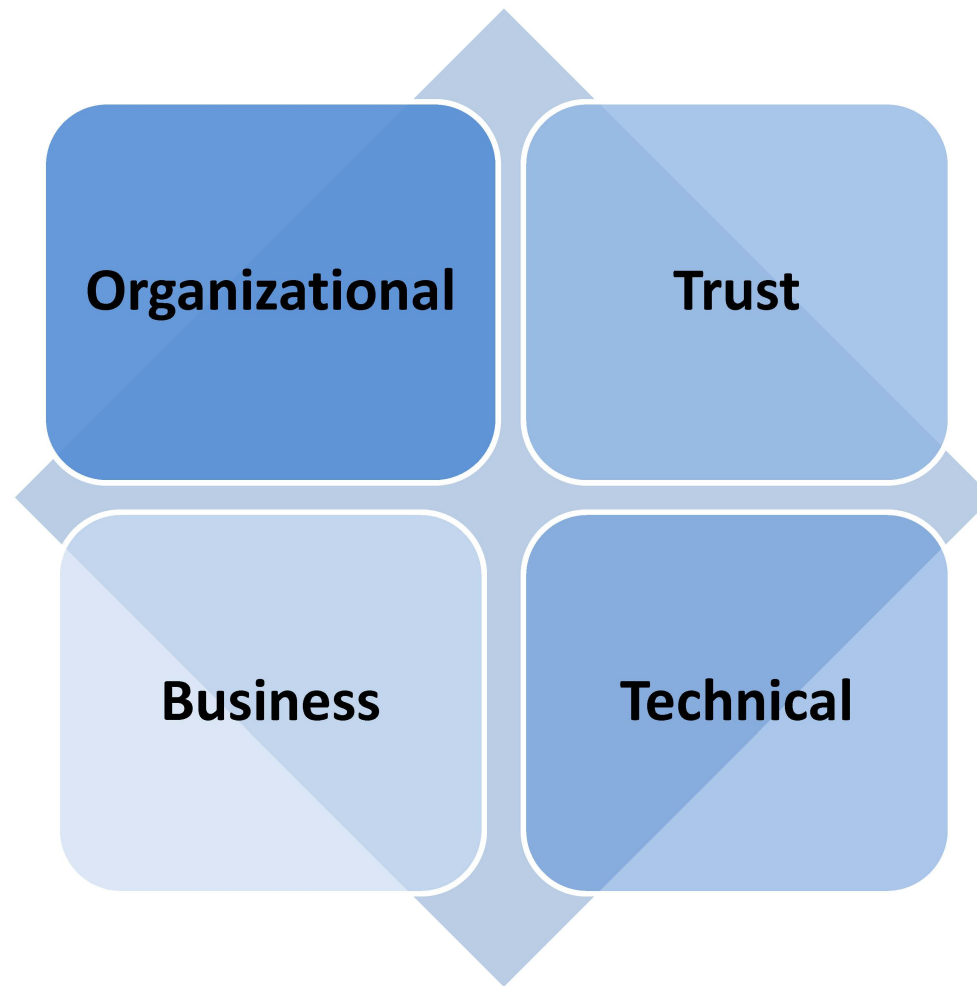
Exemplar HIE Governance Program

- ONC awarded two cooperative agreements to existing HIE governance entities to *(March 2013)*:
    - develop and adopt policies, interoperability requirements and business practices that align with national priorities
    - overcome interoperability challenges
    - reduce implementation costs, and
    - assure the privacy and security of health information

Recipient	Award
DirectTrust.org, Inc.	$280,205 + $50,000 (2014)
New York eHealth Collaborative, Inc.	$200,000

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Principles

Organizational

Trust

Business

Technical

National HIE Governance Forum

- Forum for HIE governing entities to identify their common challenges and potential common solutions

- Used the Governance Framework as a guide in prioritizing their areas of focus

- Developed resources to advance trust in health information exchange for consideration by the wider community of exchange entities
  - Identity and Access Management: Level of Assurance
  - Trust Framework for Health Information Exchange
  - HIE Certification and Accreditation Landscape

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- Leverage health IT to increase health care quality, lower health care costs and increase population health

- Focus on supporting health broadly, including but not limited to health care delivery

- Build incrementally over time from current technology – multiple methods of exchange required

- Focus on establishing best minimum possible for all; this creates room for innovation

- Maintain focus on and empower individuals

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Connecting Health and Care for the Nation:

A 10-Year Vision to Achieve an Interoperable Health IT Infrastructure

Overview

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has a critical responsibility to advance the connectivity of electronic health information and interoperability of health information technology (health IT). This is consistent with its mission to protect the health of all Americans and provide essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. This work has become particularly urgent with the need to address the national priority of better and more affordable health care, leading to better population health. Achieving this goal will only be possible with a strong, flexible health IT

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10 Year Interoperability Vision - 2

2017
Ensure providers and individuals can send, receive, find and use a basic set of essential health information

2020
Expand sources and users of information to improve health care quality and lower cost; increase automation; scale broadly

2024
Continue to expand sources and users of information in virtuous learning cycle (learning health system)

Core technical standards and functions

Certification to support adoption and optimization of health IT products & services

Privacy and security protections for health information

Supportive business, clinical, cultural, and regulatory environments
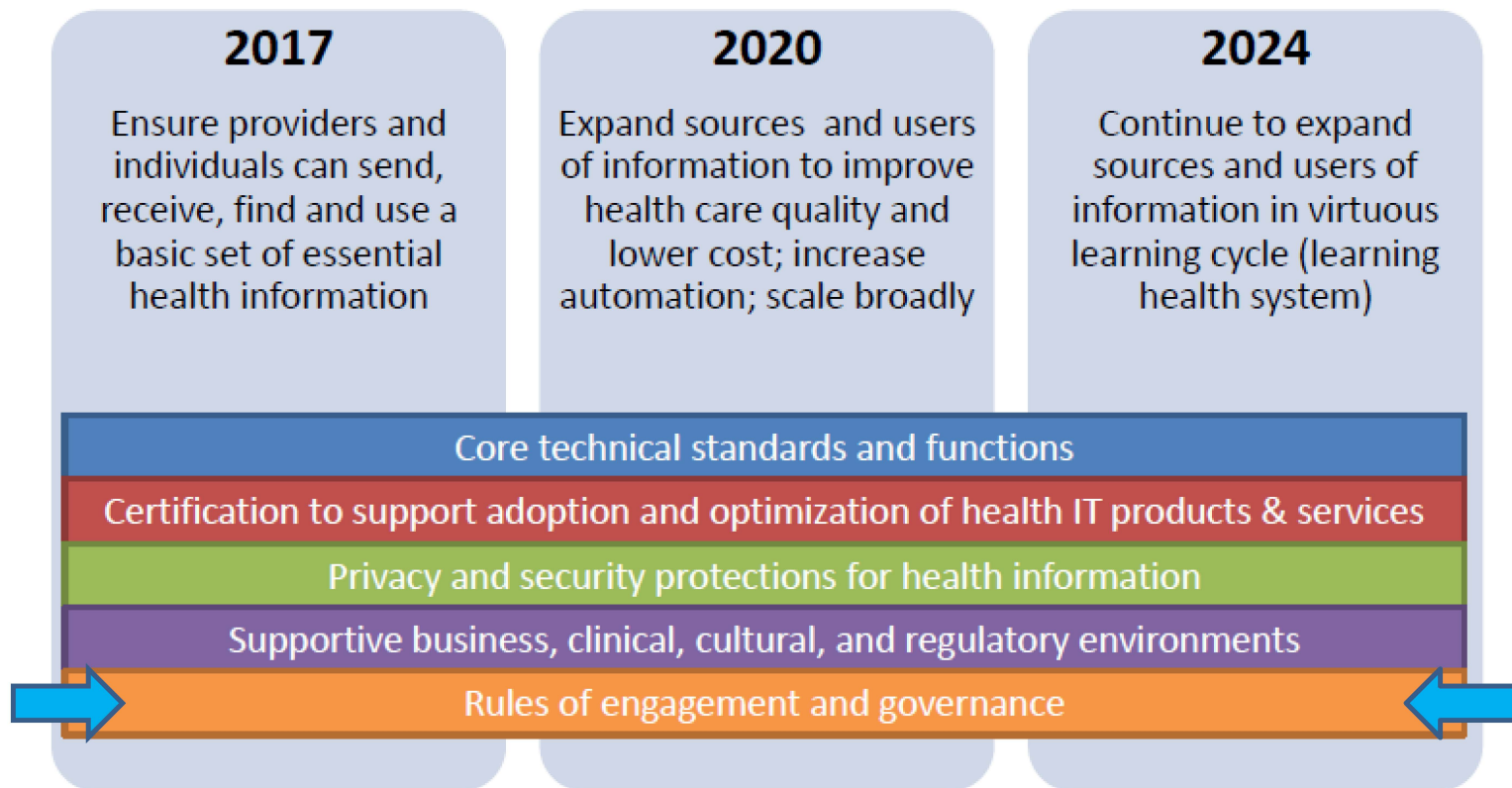
Rules of engagement and governance

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10 Year Interoperability Vision - 3

- In 2014, ONC will build on our existing governance framework and principles to ensure individual access, privacy, transparency, responsible financial and business practices, and use of federal standards to support health information exchange.

- As needed, ONC will identify "rules of the road" necessary for information to flow efficiently across networks

- Will transition to a governance approach for health information exchange that will likely involve both policy and collaboration across industry, government, and consumer representatives.

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Interoperability and Health Information Exchange – Governance Subgroup Charge

- Identify the substance, scope, and process ONC should use to implement an approach to establish the "rules of the road" necessary for information to flow efficiently across networks

- This approach should address the key problems that slow trust and exchange across diverse entities and networks that provide exchange services including:

  - misaligned/inconsistent security policies and practices
  - privacy policies and practices and operational/business
  - inconsistent policies and technical agendas of governance bodies at the local, state and regional levels

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- To learn more about the Interoperability and Health Information Exchange – Governance Subgroup see http://www.healthit.gov/FACAS/health-it-policy-committee/hitpc-workgroups/interoperability-and-health-information-exchange-governance

- To learn more about ONC's other governance initiatives see http://www.healthit.gov/policy-researchers-implementers/health-information-exchange-governance

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