



Launching the Mendocino HRE Public-Private Partnership



Will Ross, Project Manager



World Congress Leadership Summit on
RHIOs, EMRs and Patient Portals



Mendocino County, California

- 100+ miles north of San Francisco
- 3,500 square miles > (DE + RI)
- Population 89,000 (26 / sq. mi.)
- Largest city 15,000 people
- No Interstate Highway
- 3 hospitals, 152 total beds
- Long distances between small towns





Mendocino HRE Partners

Redwood MedNet

**Mendocino County Department
of Public Health**

Alliance for Rural Community Health





Redwood MedNet

- Physician led community based 501(c)(3) corporation
- Steering committee formed July 2004
- Articles of incorporation filed June 2005
- IRS approval of non-profit status December 2005
- Fiscal agent for “Mendocino HRE”



<http://www.redwoodmednet.org>



Mendocino County Department of Public Health

- Local government agency
- Unwavering support from agency Director for community health record exchange projects
- Donation of staff and facilities to host meetings
- Neutral convener capable of bringing all parties to the table
- Fiscal agent for “Redwood Health Information Collaborative”



<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/ph/>



Alliance for Rural Community Health (ARCH)

- Community based 501(c)(3) corporation
- Consortium formed in 1999 by six Community Clinics
- ARCH Board of Directors = Community Clinic EDs
- Fiscal agent for “Mendocino SHARE”



<http://www.ruralcommunityhealth.org>



Funding Sources

- HRSA
- Foundation for Medical Care of Lake and Mendocino Counties
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Markle Foundation
- Tides Foundation
- Office of the National Coordinator
- Blue Shield of California Foundation





Mendocino HRE Participants

- Alliance Medical Center
- Alexander Valley Regional Health Center
- Anderson Valley Health Center
- Redwood Regional Medical Group
- Frank Howard Medical Center
- Sutter Lakeside Medical Center
- Healdsburg District Hospital
- William W. Bowen, MD
- Mendocino County Department of Public Health
- Mendocino Family Care
- Mendocino Coast District Hospital
- Mendocino Lake Medical Society
- Mendocino Radiology
- D. Mills Matheson, MD
- Jonathan Davies, MD
- Lawrence G. Foster, MD
- Stephen P. Bradley, MD
- Sanford Brown, MD
- Quest Diagnostics
- Andy Coren, MD
- Brian L.Hanson, MD
- Lawrence Hartley, MD
- Harry B. Matossian, MD
- Brian Mundy, MD
- Robert E. Rushton, MD
- Paula Dhanda, MD
- Philip Smith, MD
- Ukiah Valley Primary Care Medical Group
- Ukiah Valley Medical Center
- Steve Wirth, MD



<http://mendocinohre.org/mern/>



Proposing a Health Information Exchange

August 2003 -- "Mendocino SHARE"

- Twelve rural safety net providers form the "Mendocino SHARE" collaborative to develop a virtual case management system to track and optimize chronic disease care
- Technology portion of the system required creation of a community Master Person Index (MPI) to share health records
- Proposal funded by HRSA in November 2003





Buy or Build MPI Software?

December 2003

- Asked HRSA for software vendors who previously provided MPI solutions to other funded communities
- HRSA provided list of 77 vendors from previous projects
- Called vendors, found no reusable components, only an opportunity to re-purchase
- Looked for open source alternative to leverage technology investment toward a common good for all rural communities





Finding an Open Source Software Developer

April 2004

- Released a detailed Request for Proposals (RFP) soliciting vendors to build an open source MPI tool kit
- 12 vendor proposals received
- 5 vendor demonstrations
- **Browsersoft, Inc.**, a J2EE developer from Kansas City, selected to build the technical solution





Connecting for Health Technical Roadmap

July 2004

- Shared vision of next steps
- Developed and agreed to by major national stakeholders
- Practical goals achievable in 1 to 3 years
- Building incrementally, not overhauling everything at once





Community HIT Steering Committee

July 2004 -- first meeting

- Carl Henning, MD -- *Orthopedic Surgeon*
- Peter Cho, MD -- *Family Practice*
- Robert Rushton, MD -- *Family Practice*
- Robert Faulk, Exec. Director, Mendocino Lake Medical Society
- Will Ross, CTO, Alliance for Rural Community Health
- Greg Wenneson, SHARE Project Manager, ARCH





Open Health Records Exchange

August 2004

- Proof of concept release of **OpenHRE**, an open source tool kit in J2EE from which a community MPI and records exchange can be built
- Conforms to the **Connecting for Health** Technical Roadmap, which specifies a Record Locator Service (RLS)
- Demonstrations of the completed software provided to HRSA, CMA, Connecting for Health, ONC



<http://www.openhre.org>



Physician Proposal for Clinical Messaging

November 2004

- Joint presentation with Carl Henning, MD, to the staff at Ukiah Valley Medical Center
- Based on Dr. Henning's prior experience with the clinical messaging implementation in Santa Cruz, California, which links 300 physicians and six analytical laboratories

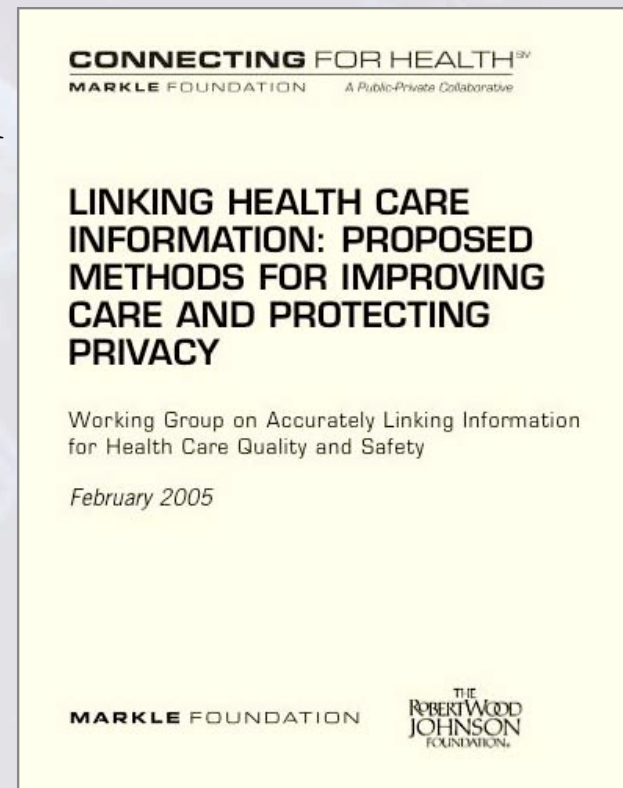




Linking Records with No National Identifier

February 2005

- Separates knowing where information is located from knowing the information
- Enables security, privacy and autonomy for all participants
- Release of information subject to authorization requirements





Connecting for Health RLS Demonstration

June 2005 -- "Mendocino HRE"

- Renamed community project **Mendocino Health Records Exchange** (HRE)
- Invited to participate as one of three communities in the Connecting for Health **RLS Demonstration**
- Based on the Connecting for Health **Common Framework** as
- Working with **MA-SHARE** (Massachusetts) and **IHIE** (Indiana)





Launch Redwood MedNet

June 2005

- Articles of Incorporation filed with Secretary of State
- The specific purpose of this corporation is to demonstrate the secure and appropriate sharing of electronic health files and clinical data, and to develop, improve and assist in the implementation of health information technology for all physicians, caregivers and consumers in Northern California.





Mendocino HRE Clinical Messaging

July 2005

- Proposal to build a **Clinical Messaging** infrastructure
- Connect 25 ambulatory practices in Lake and Mendocino counties with basic messaging service
- **Redwood MedNet** as sponsor and fiscal agent
- Project funded by Blue Shield of California Foundation in October 2005





Connecting for Health NHIN Prototype

November 2005

- Connecting for Health **Common Framework** as the basis for an **NHIN Prototype** proposal to ONC
- **Computer Sciences Corp.** (CSC) as general contractor on the Connecting for Health proposal
- **Mendocino HRE** as one of three communities in the prototype, along with **IHIE** and **MA-SHARE**
- Contract awarded by ONC in November 2005





Redwood Health Information Collaborative

December 2005

- InformationLinks proposal by the Mendocino County Department of Public Health to convene a broad based community steering committee
- Strategic Plan, Governance Plan, Cost Model and Business Plan, Legal and Policy Plan
- Project funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in December 2005



<http://mendocinohre.org/rhic/>



Connecting for Health Common Framework

April 2006

- **Connecting for Health** releases a major update to the **Common Framework**
- **Architecture is Policy**
- Available as handout from this conference
- Full pdf files and video available on CfH website
- Further policy papers are in development



<http://www.connectingforhealth.org>



Projects Completed

August 2006

- **Mendocino SHARE** -- a prototype demonstration of health records exchange between safety net clinics
- **Record Locator Service** -- a demonstration of the Connecting for Health Common Framework





Projects Underway

August 2006

- **NHIN Prototype** -- Mendocino HRE as an implementation of the Connecting for Health Common Framework
- **Community Governance** -- RWJF planning project led by the Mendocino County Department of Public Health
- **Clinical Messaging** -- Mendocino HRE implementation of a community infrastructure to deliver lab results electronically to 25 ambulatory practices





Strategies for Successful Collaboration

- Design for the **entire** health care community
- Include all willing stakeholders
- Propose narrowly scoped, incrementally practical projects
- Work with a neutral convener
- Leverage in-kind support
- Evaluate vendor proposals for short and long term costs
- Use sustainable business models



<http://www.minformatics.com>



Mendocino HRE Partners

Redwood MedNet

**Mendocino County Department
of Public Health**

Alliance for Rural Community Health



Will Ross

Mendocino Informatics / wross@minformatics.com

