REDWOOD MEDNET

Clinical Messaging in Northern California

Carl E. Henning, MD

Connecting California to Improve Patient Care

July 10, 2009
Healdsburg, California

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The Beginning

- Founded in 2005 by health professionals concerned that health care delivery in our rural region was falling behind other communities.
- Engaged local clinic information technology leader Will Ross as Project Manager.
- **Mission:** Demonstrate the secure and appropriate sharing of health data, and improve and assist in implementing Health Information Technology in our region.

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Grants & Donations

- **Foundation for Medical Care** of Lake and Mendocino Counties (in 2005)
- **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** (in 2005 to Mendocino County Public Health)
- **Blue Shield of California Foundation** (in 2005)
- **UnitedHealthcare / PacifiCare** (in 2008)
- **California HealthCare Foundation** (in 2008)
- Many conference sponsors

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Public Participation

- **NHIN Prototype Architecture** project (2005 - 2007)
- **CalPSAB** technical and policy committees (2006 - present)
- Co-Sponsor (with Mendocino Public Health) of free monthly webinar on HIE services in rural areas
  www.mendocinohre.org/rhic/ (2006 - present)
- Launched annual **HIE Conference** (July 2007)
- **PHIN InformationLinks** Community of Practice to link Public Health with HIE (2007 - present)
- Invited presentations at conferences and on expert panels (HIMSS, RWJF, NeHC, eHealth Initiative, CalPSAB)

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Recent Accomplishments

- Released HIE **Privacy & Security Policy Manual** (November 2007)
- Built **Clinical Messaging Gateway** delivering 5,000 laboratory test results per month to providers in Santa Rosa, Windsor, Healdsburg, Cloverdale & Ukiah (began operations April 2008)
- Proposed **Sustainable Business Model** for HIE as a community health data cooperative (December 2008)
- Co-founded **California eHealth Collaborative** **www.caehc.org** (February 2009)
- Demonstrated **NHIN Gateway** with five California HIEs (June 2009)

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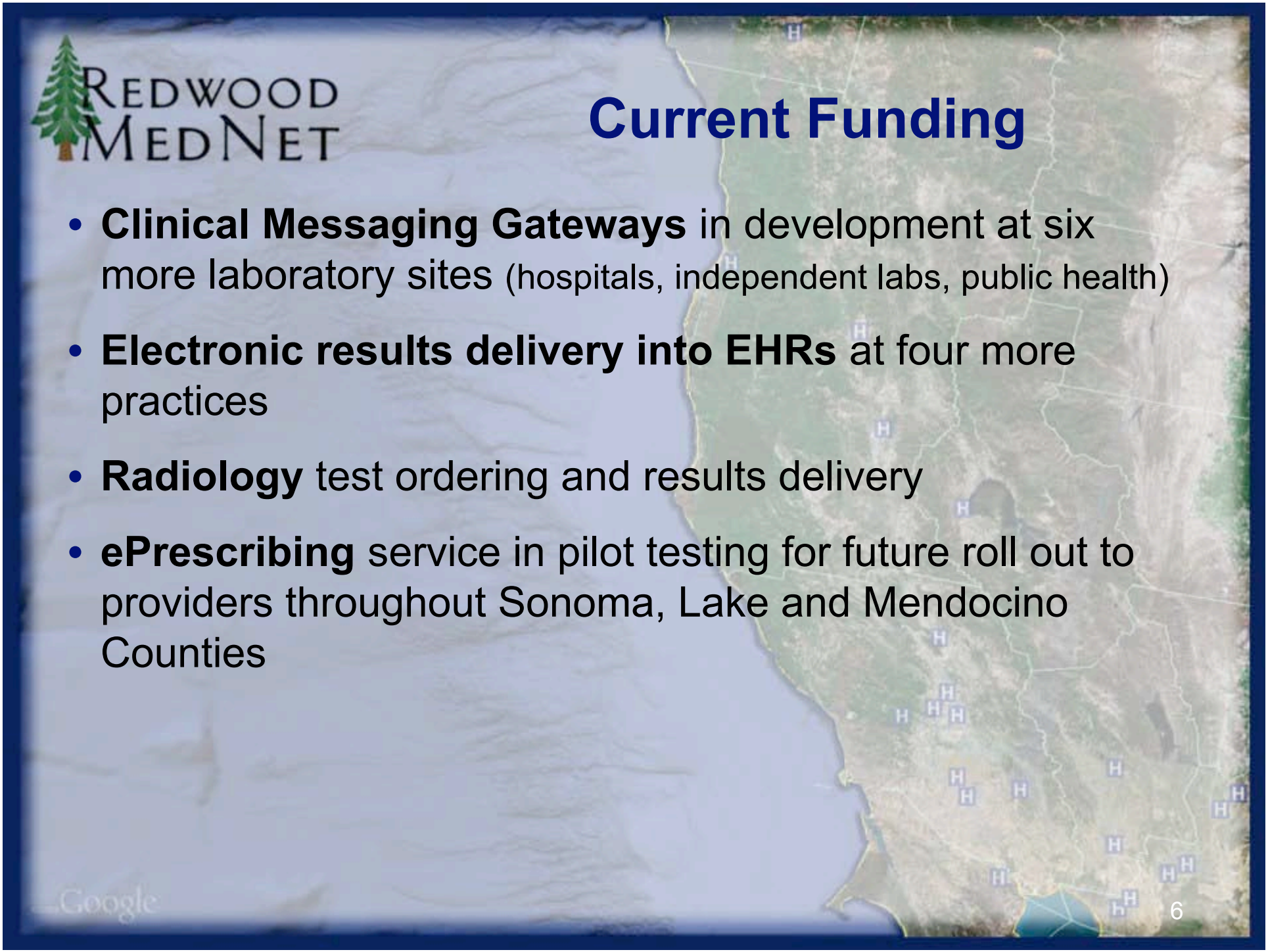
Current Funding

- **Clinical Messaging Gateways** in development at six more laboratory sites (hospitals, independent labs, public health)
- **Electronic results delivery into EHRs** at four more practices
- **Radiology** test ordering and results delivery
- **ePrescribing** service in pilot testing for future roll out to providers throughout Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino Counties



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Future Plans

- **Clinical Research Proposals** in development to leverage our community clinical messaging service
  - Open invitation to any researchers to use the Redwood MedNet cohort of rural hospitals & clinics
- Revisions to **Privacy Policy Manual** underway to meet expanded requirements from HIPAA and CalPSAB
- **Clinical Messaging Gateway** proposals in discussion with other hospitals in the region
- Contribute to **White Paper on Statewide HIE Services** in development by California eHealth Collaborative
- **Apply for HITECH funds** to rapidly expand HIE services in our region ahead of 2011 deadline for “Meaningful Use” reimbursement incentives

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Lessons Learned

- “Everything should be as simple as possible …but no simpler.” – Albert Einstein
- First, HIE must improve the quality of care to all our patients.
- Plan carefully, take small steps.
- HIE must engage the entire medical community.
- HIE must be cost effective and financially sustainable locally.
- Challenges and hurdles abound. The road is never smooth!

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Thank you for attending our conference!

Carl E. Henning, MD

President,
Redwood MedNet

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