

Health Information Technology Advisory Council

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Sustainability of HIE Services

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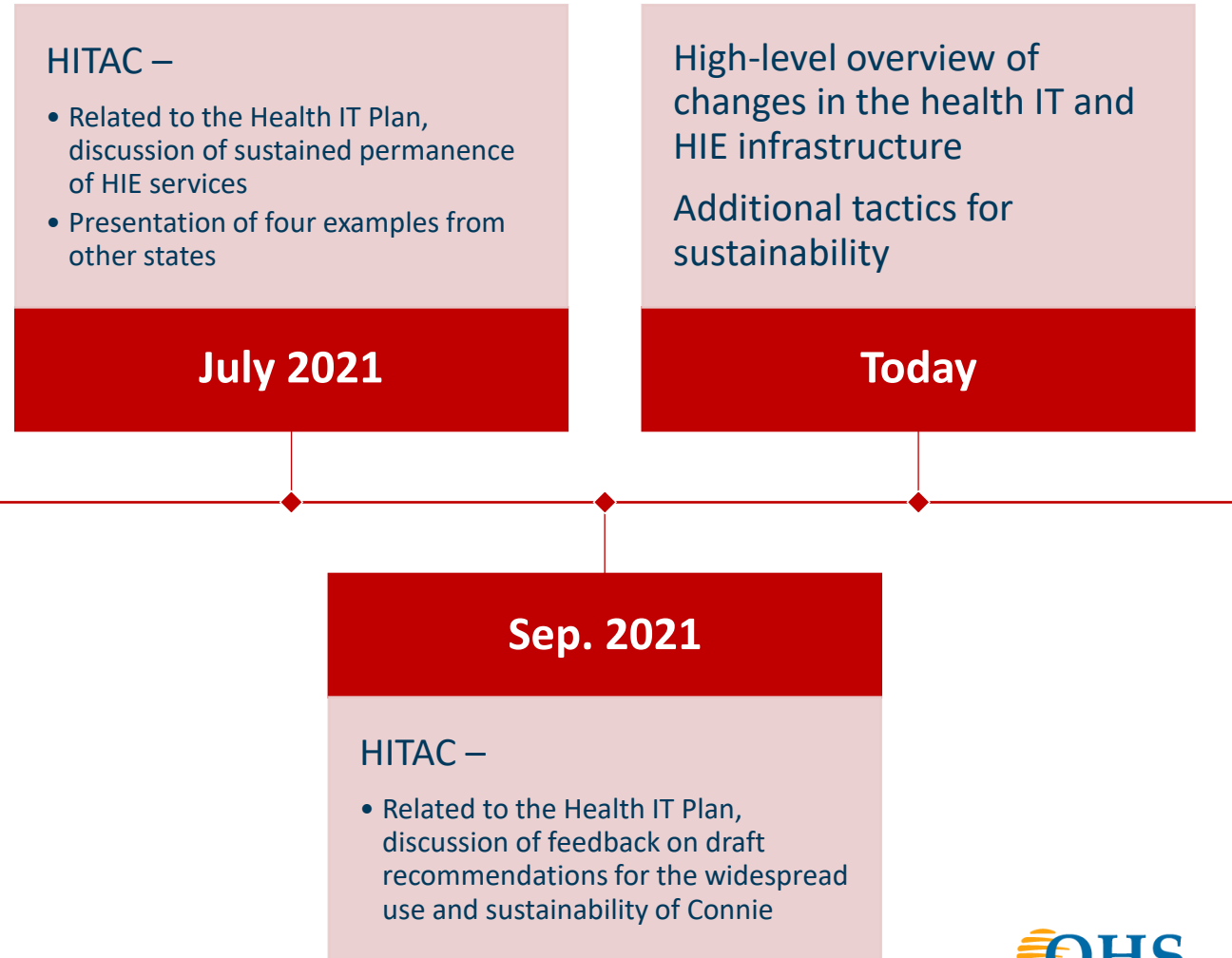
Sustainability of HIE Services – an Ongoing Topic

It's Time to Set a Major Goal for Connecticut–
Sustained Permanence of Connie's HIE Services



Sustained (Adjective from [Merriam-Webster](#)):
Maintained at length without interruption or weakening

Permanence (Noun from [Dictionary.com](#)):
The condition or quality of being permanent; perpetual or continued existence.

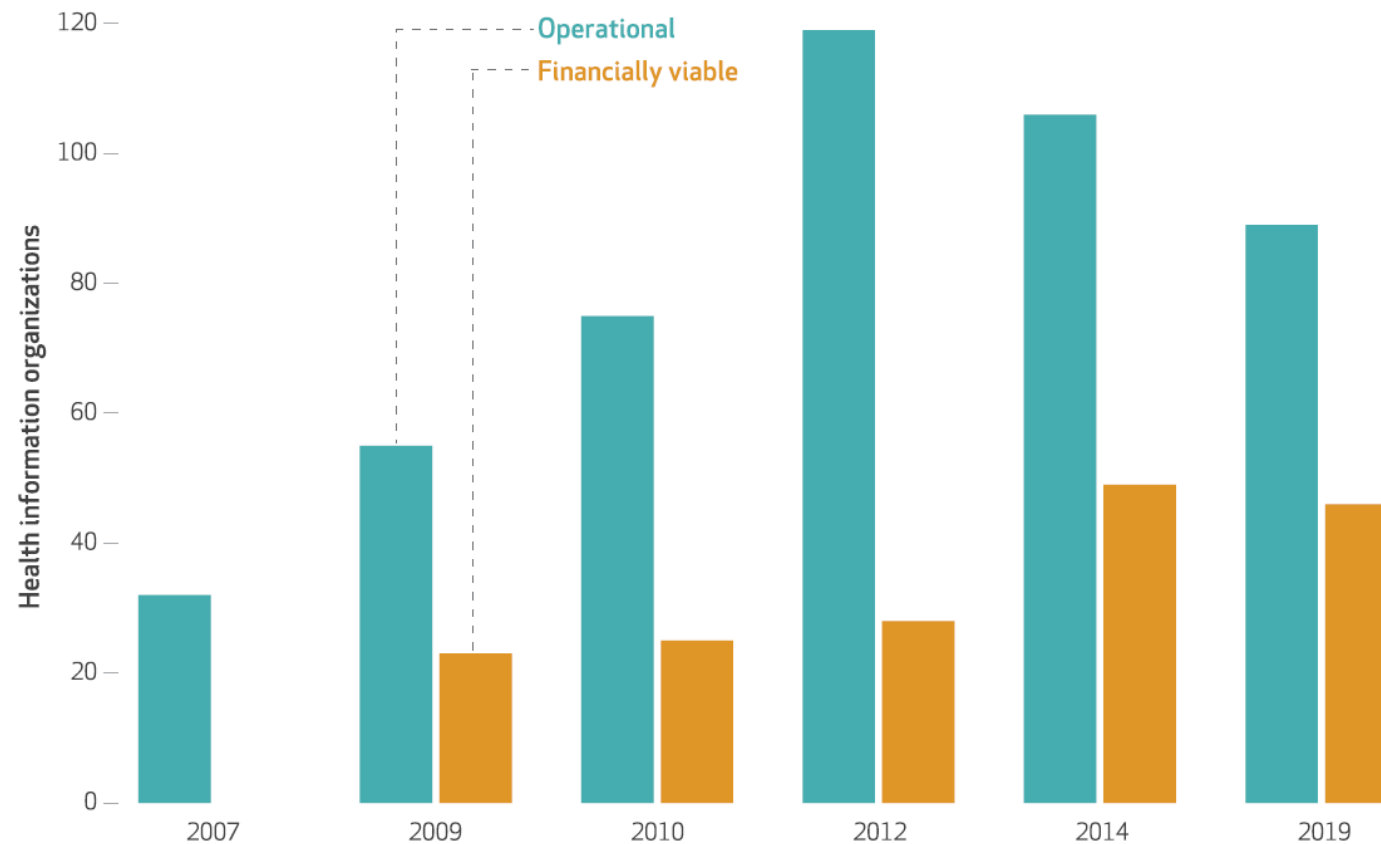


HIE History and Status

- Early HIE examples driven by regional exchange needs
- Regional HIEs expanded into early statewide HIEs
- ARRA and the embedded HITECH Act stimulated expansion
 - ONC Cooperative Agreement Program
 - CMS Promoting Interoperability incentive program
 - Federal funding has been a major contributor
- But sustainability is challenging

Operational and Financially Viable HIEs over Time

Number of operational and financially viable health information organizations (HIOs) over time, selected years 2007-19



Julia Adler-Milstein, Anjali Garg, Wendi Zhao, and Vaishali Patel, *A Survey Of Health Information Exchange Organizations In Advance Of A Nationwide Connectivity Framework*, Health Affairs Volume 40, Issue 5, May 2021, Downloaded from HealthAffairs.org on August 23, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2020.01497>

Changes in the HIE Ecosystem

Geographical expansion of healthcare systems

Vertical integration of hospitals and practices

- With geographical expansion

Vendor exchange solutions

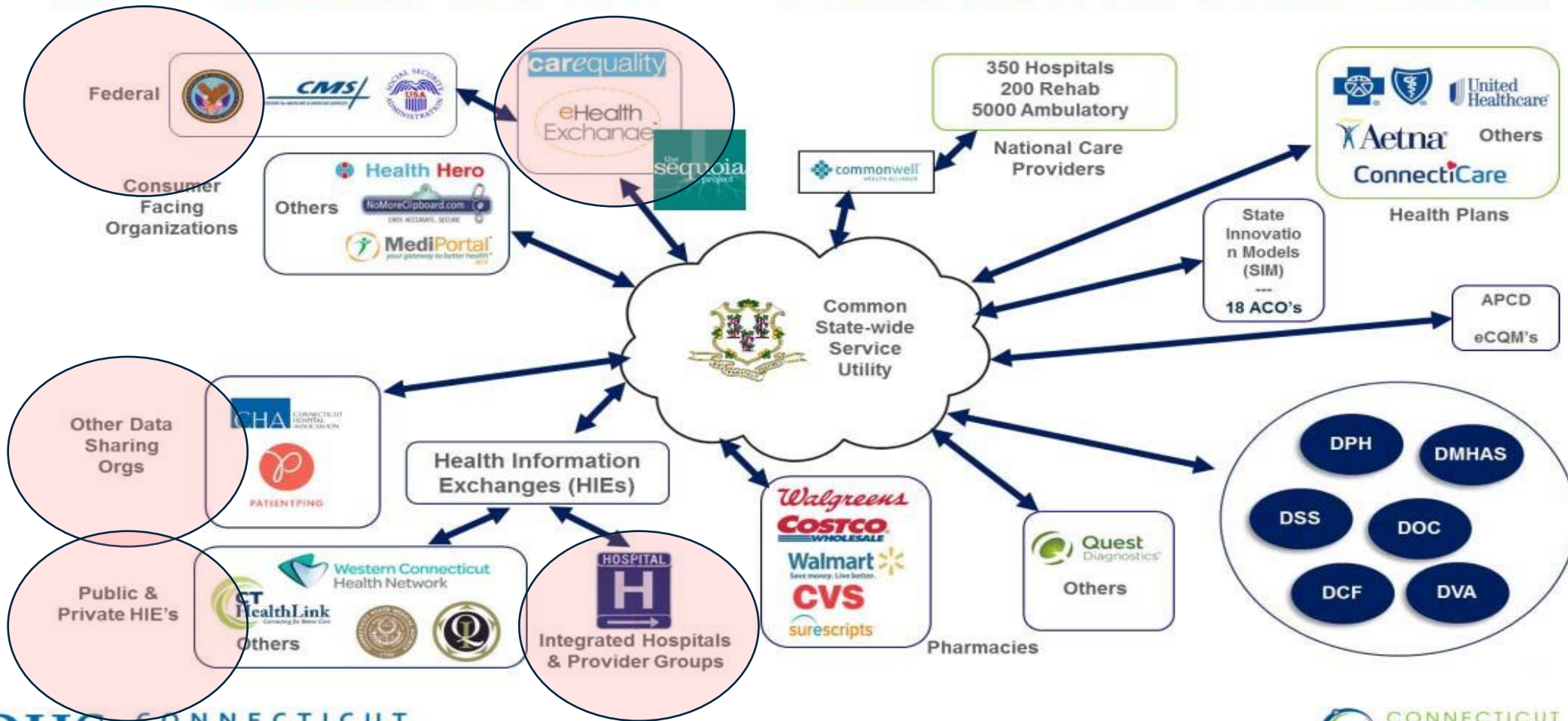
User group exchange solutions and services

National exchange solutions

Federal funding changes

Evolution of healthcare-related data types (SDOH, MH, SUD)

HIE Vision for CT – “Network of Networks”



Positioning for Sustainability – Act Locally



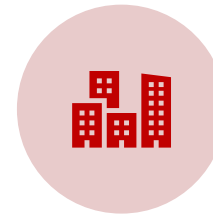
HIE ORGANIZATIONS
SUPPORT LOCAL
NEEDS



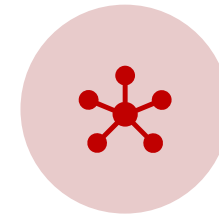
PRIORITIZE
REGIONAL
NOTIFICATIONS



PARTICIPATE IN
COMMUNITY
HEALTH RECORDS



PROVIDE PUBLIC
UTILITY FUNCTIONS



INTEGRATE SDOH
DATA FOR CARE
COORDINATION



CURATE REGIONAL
DATA REPOSITORIES



PARTICIPATE IN A
HEALTH DATA
UTILITY MODEL

Leverage State Designated Entity Status

- Participate in Medicaid Enterprise transitions
 - Partner with the State Medicaid Agency
 - Transition to modular architectures and services
 - New funding challenges
 - Participate in value-based payment models
- Consider best examples from sustainable HIE organizations
- Integrate HIE services with vital public health services
- Be a neutral hub for inter-agency data normalization and sharing
- Track Federal government actions for opportunities

Considerations for Connecticut and Connie

- The following slides are from the July and September HITAC meeting presentations:
 - Elements of the Health IT Plan, highlighting Connie considerations
 - Draft recommendations for widespread use and sustainability of Connie
 - Summary of feedback on the draft recommendation
 - A timeline for HITAC engagement with the sustainability topic



Elements of the Health IT Plan

HIE /Connie

- Prioritize patient portal use case in Connie
- Sustainability Workgroup chartered by HITAC
- Educate stakeholders and monitor compliance with Information Blocking Rules
- Survey for ADT notification preferences
- Evaluate use of Connie for centralized VBP and reporting functions

Social Determinants of Health

- Evaluate SDoH screening tools and pilot social needs screening and data mapping processes for community information exchange (CIE)
- Align with national standards
- Integrate race, ethnicity, and language data with a Health Equity Dashboard
- Invest in IT infrastructure and staffing for community-based organizations

Interagency Data Sharing

- Implement standard legal agreements for interagency data sharing
- Establish HHS Person-Centered Services Collaborative
- Establish best practices for interagency data sharing
- Evaluate centralized public health gateway Evaluate interface technology to support interoperability

Behavioral Health IT Challenges

- Listening sessions with behavioral health providers on EHR/HIE adoption challenges
- State agency educational campaign
- State-funded technical assistance
- Financial incentives for data exchange and quality reporting

Best Possible Medication History

- Explore expansion of Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) and other medication fill data sources
- Establish single sign-on capabilities to PDMP
- Develop a Best Possible Medication History (BPMH) service in Connie

Health Information Privacy

- Video series on information sharing
- Educational materials for providers on consent management
- Town hall meetings to facilitate consumer engagement
- Establish Patient Health Information Protection Office

Draft Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Strategies for Widespread Use and Sustainability of Connie

- Connecticut Health IT Advisory Council to provide advisory support to the Executive Director of the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) and the Health Information Technology Officer (HITO) in evaluating options to help ensure long-term sustainability of Connie's HIE services, and support the fulfillment of the responsibilities of OHS as described in [Connecticut General Statute \(CGS\) Section \(Sec.\) 17b-59g\(a\)\(3\)](#)
- Create a HITAC-appointed stakeholder workgroup to review options and provide recommendations to the OHS Executive Director and the HITO for sustainability including, but not limited to, legislation and/or regulatory actions to encourage participation in Connie, with potential funding sources to project Connie as a critical public utility focused on providing baseline health information exchange services, supportive governance models to advance the public utility model, and progression of OHS responsibilities outlined in [CGS Sec. 19a-754a](#)
- In addition, Connie should explore partnerships to foster earned revenue through fees.
- In the near-term, Connie should focus on HIE fundamentals (e.g., ADT notifications, lab results and image sharing, medication lists, etc.) with an eye toward useability and workflow integration. Key stakeholders and Connie should consider adoption of a single statewide ADT notification system.
- Payment incentives should be included in contracts between payers and providers to build a critical mass of organizations onboarded and exchanging health information to improve clinical care. In addition, a regional extension center-styled initiative should be instituted to ensure smaller practices and provider groups have the technical supports and training to onboard and utilize the statewide HIE.
- Connie should be leveraged for HIE between local public health departments, providers, and the Dept. of Public Health to ensure centralized data access and streamlined reporting in public health crises, and ease the administrative burden experienced by local public health departments and providers due to manual data entry, redundant reporting, and difficulty querying public health data systems.

Strategies for Widespread Use and Sustainability of Connie



Feedback

1. With few exceptions, stakeholders support a public utility management model of master patient and provider demographic information
 - Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) challenged the recommendation of a “public utility model, suggesting the strategy would require fees on providers
2. Stakeholders agree that analytics would be a good use case for Connie’s sustainability
3. Support for data exchange among community-based organizations and social services agencies
4. CHA disagreed with recommendation for a single ADT notification system
5. Some disagreement around where a public health gateway should be hosted (Dept. of Public Health vs. Connie)
6. Connie should engage users in comprehensive design and testing processes for services on the platform

Strategies for Widespread Use and Sustainability of Connie



HITAC HIE Sustainability Workgroup

- Provide advice to the OHS Executive Director and the HITO.
- Evaluate sustainability strategies of long-standing HIEs nationwide
- Develop a comparative analysis showing where savings are accrued across domains,
- Recommend executive, legislative, agency, and program-level actions

Value-Based Care Data Strategies and Support

- OHS to engage ACOs and primary care workgroup
- Evaluate Connie as a centralized clinical quality measurement and reporting service
- Support providers' participation in value-based payment models

Survey on ADT Notification Systems

- Conducting a survey of users assessing satisfaction with current system
- Consider a Request for Information process to evaluate options for connecting multiple notification systems through a master data management service with application program interfaces (APIs).

ONC Information Blocking Final Rule

- OHS to conduct a provider education campaign
- Encourage greater portability and interoperability of patient health information.
- Should be followed by clear guidelines for how compliance with the information blocking rules will be monitored and enforced.

Questions / Comments / Discussion

