
Privacy and Security Solutions for Interoperable Health Information Exchange

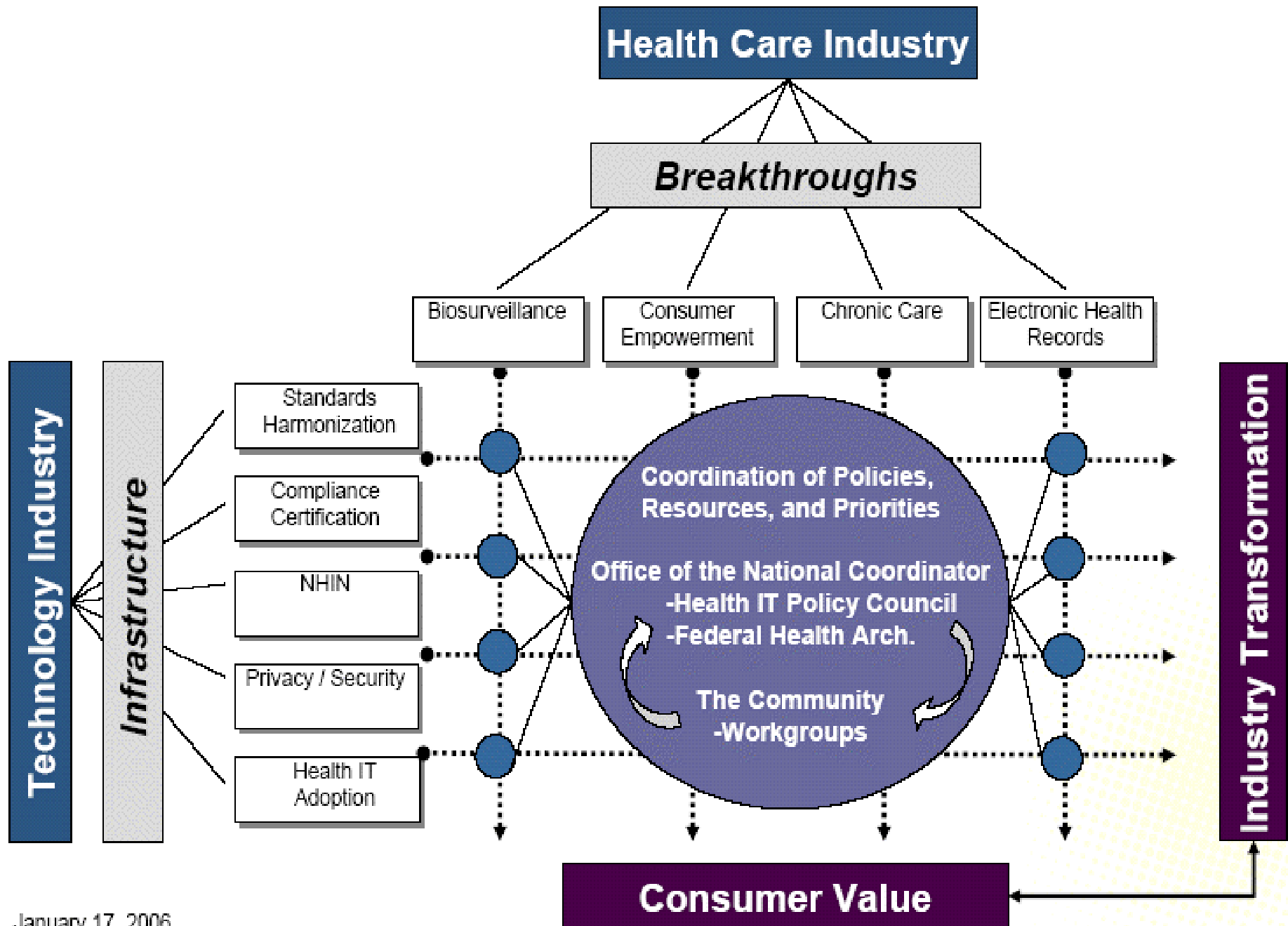
**Presented to the Minnesota e-Health Advisory Board
January 26, 2006**

*Presented by Walter G. Suarez, MD, MPH
President and CEO*

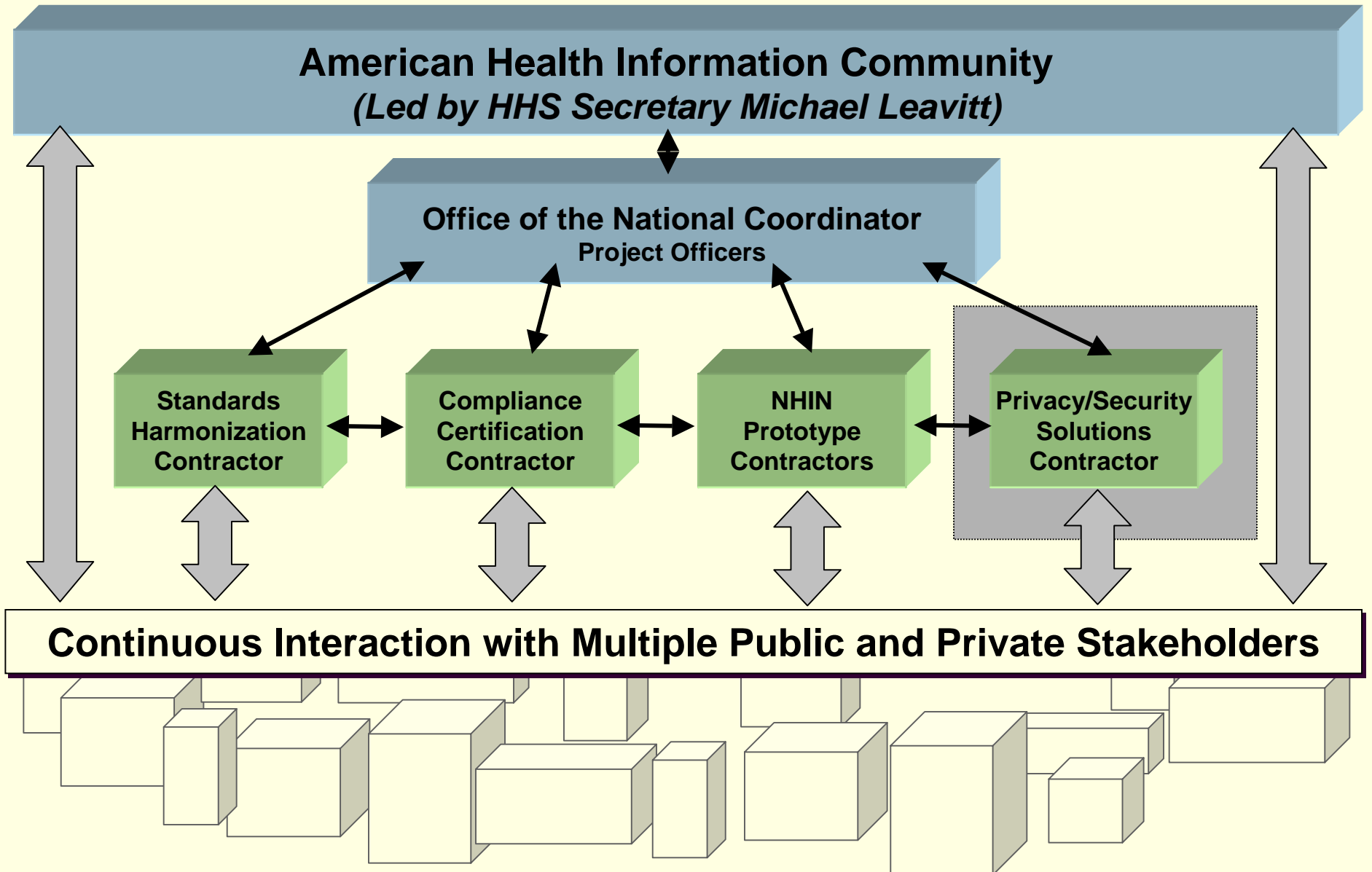


**Overview of the Health Information Security
and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC) Project**

ONCHIT Health Information Technology Deployment Coordination



HHS Health IT Strategy



Privacy and Security Solutions for Interoperable Health Information Exchange

- **Contract awarded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and ONCHIT**
- **Establishes the Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC), a partnership consisting of a multi-disciplinary team of experts, the National Governor's Association and a group of states and territorial governments**
- **Overseeing the HISPC will be RTI International, a private, non-profit corporation, selected by HHS as the contract recipient**

Environmental Scan

- **The existing paradigm for security and privacy does not fully accommodate active consumer participation in health information exchange**
- **Consumers, organizations, and state and federal entities share concerns related to maintaining the privacy and security of health information**
- **Organizations within states have varying privacy and security business policies and practices that affect electronic clinical health information exchange**

Environmental Scan

- **In addition to HIPAA, many state-based health information privacy rules protect Americans**
- **Stakeholders, especially patients and consumers, at the state and community levels must be involved in developing solutions**
- **States are interested in supporting electronic health information exchange in order to improve public health and healthcare quality, but want to preserve essential privacy and security protections**

Project Purposes

- **Identify variations in organization-level business privacy and security policies and practices that affect electronic clinical health information exchange (HIE)**
 - **For those that are “best practices”, document and incorporate into proposed solutions**
 - **For those with a negative impact, identify source of the policy or practice and propose alternatives**
- **Identify and propose practical solutions, while preserving, as much as possible, the privacy and security protections established in applicable federal and state laws in a manner consistent with interoperable electronic health information exchange**

Project Purposes

- **Incorporate state and community interests, and promote stakeholder identification of practical solutions and implementation strategies through an open and transparent consensus-building process**
- **Leave behind in states and communities a knowledge base about privacy and security issues in electronic health information exchange that endures to inform future HIE activities**

Overall Project Approach

- Overall contract managed by RTI International in partnership with NGA
- 18-month period; \$11.5 million
- RTI will subcontract with up to 40 states to:
 - Identify within the state business practices that affect electronic health information exchange
 - Propose solutions and implementation plans
 - Collaborate on regional and national meetings to develop solutions with broader application
- Provide final report on overall project outcomes and recommendations

Project Outcomes

- Stakeholders, including state entities, will have a full understanding of variations in business privacy and security policies and practices in their states and communities
- States, through the use of stakeholder groups, will design practical solutions and implementation plans for preserving privacy and security protections while implementing electronic health information systems
- Through HISPC, long-lasting collaborative networks will be established for states and communities to support future work

Project Outcomes

- **Stakeholders will have increased knowledge of best practices and how to implement them within their organizations and their state**
- **Project output will be available to optimize construction of the NHIN prototypes, and inform the architecture and standardization projects**
- **States will have access to state, regional and national best practices and solutions to optimize health information exchange**

2006 Project Timelines and Milestones

- **Jan 4** **Release RFP to Governors Offices**
- **Jan 11** **Bidder's Conference 1**
- **Feb 8** **Bidder's Conference 2**
- **Feb 25-28** **NGA Winter Meeting**
- **Mar 1** **Proposals Due**
- **Apr 28** **Subcontracts Signed**
- **Sept 30** **Interim Assessments of Variation**
- **Oct 30** **Interim Reports of Solutions**
- **Oct/Nov** **State and Regional Workshops**
- **Nov 30** **Interim Implementation Plans**

2007 Project Timelines and Milestones

- **February** **National Meeting**
- **Mar 30** **Final Assessment of Variation**
- **Mar 30** **Final Analysis of Solutions**
- **Mar 30** **Final Implementation Plans**
- **Mar 30** **Final Nationwide Summary**

Overview of the 2006 HISPC RFP

■ Purpose:

To examine privacy and security laws and business practices within Minnesota that affects the ability to exchange interoperable electronic health information (e.g., electronic medical records, e-prescribing, and e-billing). One project in a series of coordinated RFPs aimed at advancing the national health information infrastructure.

Overview of the 2006 HISPC RFP

■ Grant Specifics:

- Funding from the U.S. DHHS; awarded to Research Triangle Institute and the National Governor's Association's Center for Best Practices.
- Considered by DHHS to be a critical component in developing a national health information infrastructure.
- Funding for up to 40 states and territories.
- Range of \$150,000 – 350,000.
- Application Due Date: March 1, 2006.
- Period of performance: April 24, 2006 – March 30, 2007.

Overview of the 2006 HISPC RFP

■ Project Tasks/Timelines:

- **Task 1 Assess variation in organization-level business policies and state laws.**
(May 16 - August 25, 2006)
- **Task 2 Formulate interim solutions and implementation plan.**
(July 5 - November 30, 2006)
- **Task 3 Formulate final solutions and implementation plan.**
(December 1 - March 30, 2007)
- **Task 4 Manage the project.**
(ongoing)

Overview of the 2006 HISPC RFP

■ Key Activities:

- Examine privacy and security policies and business practices regarding electronic health information
- Exchange and the current legal requirements in the state that may be driving those policies.
- Identify challenges that privacy and security policies might pose to interoperable health information exchange.
- Identify best practices and solutions for maintaining privacy and security protections while enabling operation of a health information network.

Overview of the 2006 HISPC RFP

■ Key Activities (cont.):

- **Develop an implementation plan to address organization-level business practices and state laws that affect privacy and security practices in order to permit interoperable health information exchange.**
- **Convene and work closely with a wide range of stakeholders in the state, including clinicians, physician groups, health facilities and hospitals, payers, public health agencies, government health agencies, pharmacies, long-term care facilities and nursing homes, and consumer organizations.**
- **Identify and organize a steering committee to lead the effort within each state.**
- **Participate in regional and national meetings with other states to share knowledge and collaborate on health information exchange privacy and security issues and related issues**