



eHealth Infrastructure:

A Rural Community's Journey

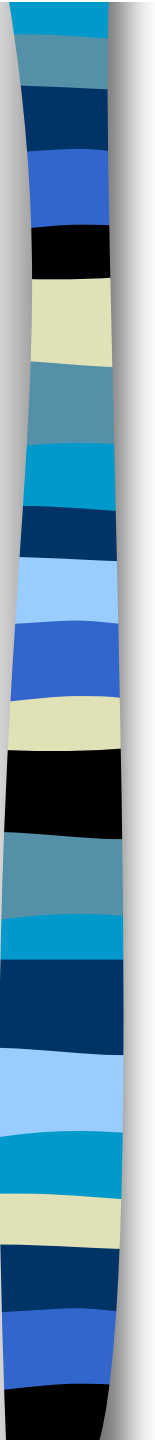


Tri-County Hospital

- 25-bed Critical Access Hospital
- Northern Todd, Wadena and Eastern Otter Tail Counties
- 4 Distinct Health Professional Shortage Areas

Tri-County Hospital Service Area

Wadena, Minnesota





Technology Initiatives Began

- 1994 – Office for the Advancement of Telehealth, Health Resources and Services Administration grant with University of MN
- 2001 – USDA Rural Utilities Services Distance Learning and Telemedicine grant



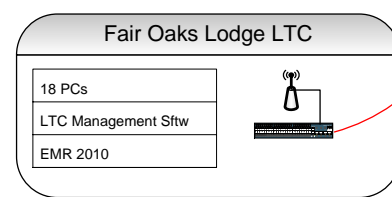
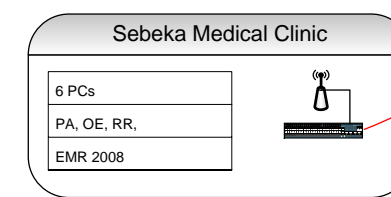
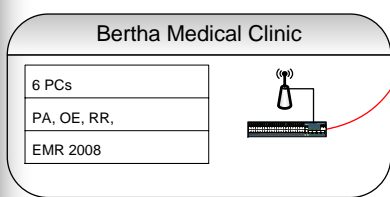
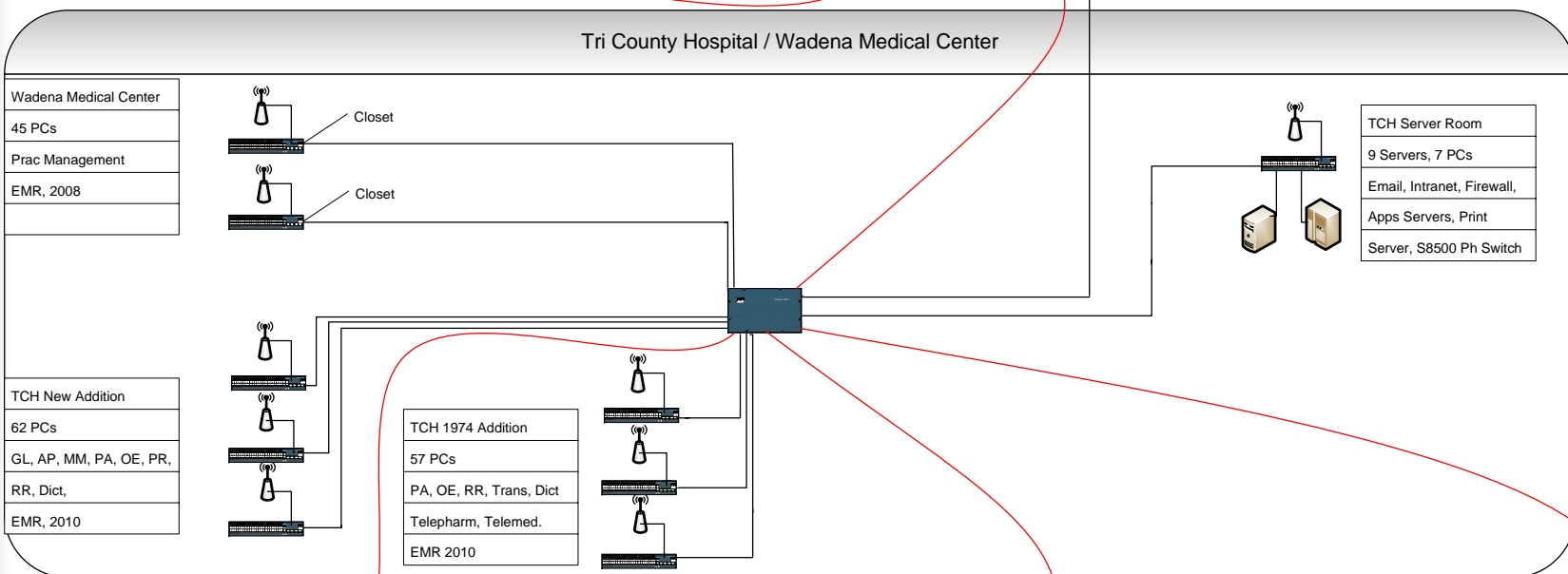
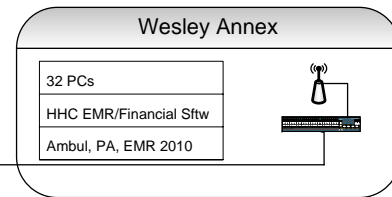
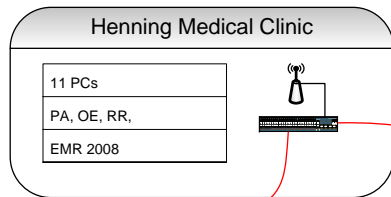
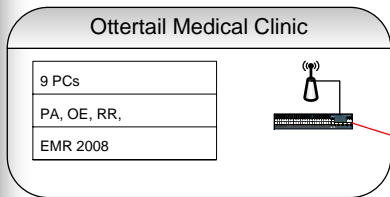
Development of TCH Wide Area Network (WAN)

- Converged Services Model
 - Audio
 - Data
 - Video functions



Network Infrastructure

- TCH
- 4 Rural Health Clinics
- 1 Skilled Nursing Facility
- Wadena Medical Center
- Remote Connectivity supported with VPN – Radiologist/Transcriptionists/Night Hawk Services
- Future growth possibilities





Successes Over Past 6+ Years

- Improved Quality of Patient Care and Satisfaction
- Access to Specialty Care for Patients
- Extends availability of scarce Medical and Healthcare Professional resources
- Reliable WAN Created



Vision for eHealth Implementation Project

- Establish a secure, enterprise-wide access to shared Patient Information by initiating electronic health record use across the medical providers within the collaborative



Desired Outcomes/Goals

- Improve Patient Safety and reduce medical errors – better documentation
- Improve Quality of Care and Patient Outcomes– preventative health maintenance
- Improve Medication Management across the Continuum of Care – reconciliation, refills, education, etc.



Stratis Health DOQ-IT Project

- Workflow Process Analysis Mapping
- Request For Proposal (RFP)
Development based on Goals,
Objectives and Outcome of Process
Mapping



Stratis Health DOQ-IT Project

- Webinar Demos
- 5 Vendors for RFP
- Based on RFP review, trimmed to 4, established initial rank
- 4 Onsite Demos – 2 Days each, narrowed to 3 for site visits



Stratis Health DOQ-IT Project

- Currently at 2 Finalists
- Next Step is an inhouse Head-to-Head Demonstration
- Targeting July Board Meeting for Final Decision with Implementation Date in Late 2007



Additional Work Completed

- RN Informatics Coordinator position
- Additional computers in NS
- Assigned email accounts through hospital system for all NS
- Computer Skills Inventory for all staff and NS



Work (Continued)

- Special computer training skills lab for identified staff with limited/no skills
 - Small Groups
 - 1-on-1 Training
- PACS Evaluation & Implementation Process Team – Radiology and IT



Lessons Learned #1

- Engage Physician Group – Priority!



Lessons Learned #2

- IT Infrastructure Strategy to help insure site readiness.
- Have you considered conducting an IT Infrastructure evaluation to determine your site readiness?



Lessons Learned #3

- Grants are a valuable resource and have been key to our success.



Lessons Learned #4

- Broad-based Physician and Staff participation helps to alleviate some of the fears and generates enthusiasm.



Acknowledgements:

- MDH eHealth Initiative Grant, 2007
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For More Information

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