

# Focus Group: Data Management & Analytics

## Topics: Identity Proofing & 4DW

Health IT Modernization Program

July 24, 2025



# Zoom Meeting Guide

Please  
**MUTE**



## Microphone

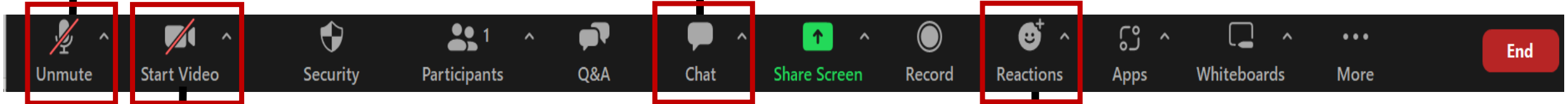
- Click to mute or unmute yourself
- Red slash indicates you are on mute.
- Unmute to participate in the discussion.

Please  
Use Chat  
Feature



## Chat

- Engage in the discussion using the chat, if you are not able to unmute.



## Camera

- Click to turn camera on or off.
- Red slash indicates camera is off.

## Reactions

- Send an emoji to participate in the discussion.
- Raise your hand to let the facilitator know you would like to speak.

# Technical Notes and Support

## *Meeting Guide*



- If you lose connectivity during the session, **simply re-click your access link** to re-access the meeting
- If you experience technical difficulties, **send a note using the chat box OR email [Modernization@ihs.gov](mailto:Modernization@ihs.gov)** to connect with a Coordinator for assistance
- If you are dialing-in via Phone – Use \*6 to mute and unmute and \*9 to raise your hand

Enjoy the session!

# Disclaimer



Focus Groups (FGs) inform and support decisions and governance of the Health Information Technology (IT) Modernization Program. FGs are NOT decision-making bodies and at NO time will focus groups provide consensus, recommendations or advice to the Agency that would trigger Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. § 1-16 additional legal requirements.

# Meeting Courtesies



- Participation in the focus group is voluntary and has no term limits
- Be prompt, be prepared, and be ready with constructive feedback
- Share constructive individual feedback via engagement during the meeting
- Communicate with grace and respect for all participants
- Be engaged, listen attentively and actively, share ideas, ask questions, contribute
- It's all right to refrain from discussing specific topics if you are uncomfortable
- All responses are valid—there are no right or wrong answers
- Maintain others' privacy by not discussing details outside the group
- Any topics or ideas not directly related to the current agenda will be 'promptly parked' and revisited at an appropriate time



# Welcome & Introductions

**Eric J. Newland** - *Data Management & Analytics*  
*Focus Group Facilitator*

**Charles Cross** - *IHS, DHITMO Engineering Branch Chief*

**Vanessa Weaver** - *IHS, Dir. Div. of Data Management  
& Analytics*

# Overview

## Purpose

The Focus Group will help the Executive Steering Committee (ESC) to understand the strategies used by other Federal agencies, Tribes, and Urban Indian Organizations to modernize their Health IT capabilities resulting in performance changes in healthcare delivery. The participants from the Focus Groups in the areas of Health IT Implementation, Interoperability, and Data Management and Analytics will inform decisions regarding organizational readiness, planning, and implementation.

## Agenda

- Introduction
- Identity Proofing
  - Methods for Secure Identity Proofing
  - Addressing Identity Proofing Challenges
- Four Directions Warehouse (4DW)
- Closing Remarks

## Desired Outcomes

- Improve shared understanding among Focus Group Participants
- Capture issues and lessons learned data
- **Improve the system and tool** to support the patient's and healthcare teams' utilization of a new electronic health record
- Your **input** is important and provides valuable information and understanding the end-user needs necessary to support the modernization efforts

# Focus Groups

*The purpose of the focus groups is to share information and expertise concerning issues of interest to all I/T/U organizations regardless of their selected EHR solution.*

## Health IT Implementation

Help understand the lessons learned, challenges, and strategies used by other organizations to modernize their health IT capabilities.



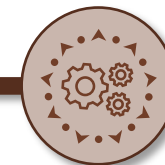
## Interoperability

Review and suggest strategies, operational requirements, clinical practice standards, and performance measures that inform the interoperability solution design and project planning.



## Data Management and Analytics

Review and suggest strategies that support effective data use, security and privacy controls, and standards.





# Invitation to Participate in Focus Groups

*Tribes and UIOs are encouraged to engage in the modernization strategy via focus groups.*

## Participation will be open to all I/T/U organizations

Eligible individuals include:

- Volunteers in health IT implementation, interoperability, and data management and analytics
- Participants with health IT experience, RPMS, various EHRs, business and clinical workflows, interoperability, informatics, organizational change, facility management, privacy, and other relevant domains

*\*Note: Participation is not limited to one focus group*

Email [Modernization@ihs.gov](mailto:Modernization@ihs.gov)  
to volunteer for focus group  
participation.



*\*At this time, vendors cannot participate*

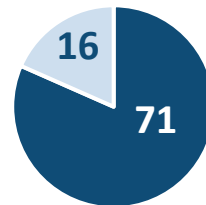
# Statement of Interest

*The IHS desires to learn which tribal and urban health care entities have an interest in becoming a tenant on the shared system*

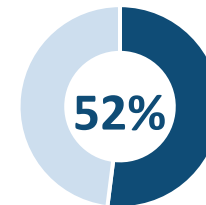
**Opportunity** for Tribes and urban Indian organizations to formally express interest in participating in the PATH EHR solution



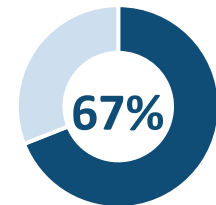
- The IHS shared a Statement of Interest form where tribal and urban health care entities can indicate their interest in partnering with the IHS on the shared enterprise solution. The Statement of Interest is **NON-BINDING** and will connect partners to support system configuration, organizational assessment, and implementation planning.
- The Statement of Interest was attached to a [Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader letter](#) published on June 29, 2023.
- The IHS has received **91** Statement of Interest documents to date.



**71 tribal partners and 16 urban Indian organizations** have submitted a Statement of Interest to date; 4 sites not participating



**52%** already use commercial health IT solutions other than or alongside RPMS



**67%** of respondents desire to implement **early** in the Modernization Program

**As of May 20, 2025**

# Health IT Modernization Guiding Principles



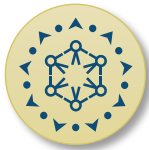
## DESIGN

solutions that deliver culturally appropriate care, quality, safety, and improved patient outcomes



## EMPHASIZE

usability and human-centered design



## ENGAGE

patients in their health journey through improved patient access



## ADOPT

enterprise technology solutions that support continuity of care



## PARTNER

across I/T/U for collaborative decision-making that is fully informed by clinical and business users in the field



## CONFIGURE

solutions to meet organizational requirements with minimal customization



## UTILIZE

recognized best practices across clinical and business processes



## PROVIDE

timely and complete communication, training, and tools to support a successful deployment

# Focus Group Highlights

## *Focus Group Summary 2024*



- The Data Management Focus Group in 2024 averaged 24 participants from various I/T/U's
- **Security Management Challenges:**
  - IHS continues to seek to identify potential challenges and pitfalls regarding security management
  - Security Management challenges: risk, security policies, training and auditing
- **Consent Management Challenges:**
  - External entities accessing records, the need for agreements
  - Engaged conversations took place on the lifecycle process of soliciting approval permission
  - Control over patient data, storage and disposition
- **Data Flow Considerations:**
  - Data moving in and out of their clinical EHR and ancillary systems
  - Systems that contribute to data associated with facilities
- **Data Sources:**
  - Use of facility data and considerations for secondary uses for that data
  - Patient choice in tribal healthcare organizations
  - Balancing need for data use in research and public health with patient privacy
  - Tribal control over healthcare data



A scenic autumn landscape featuring a calm lake in the middle ground, surrounded by dense forests with trees in various shades of green, yellow, and orange. In the foreground, there are bare tree branches and some leaves with autumnal tints. A large white circle is centered over the image, containing the title and subtitle text.

# Topic 1: Identity Proofing

*Methods &  
Challenges*

# Discussion & Questions

## *Identity Proofing* – Addressing Methods

- What are the most commonly used methods you have seen or utilized in your facility for identity proofing, and how do they differ in terms of security and user experience?
- How does your organization balance security with user privacy and compliance in identity proofing processes?
- What challenges has your facility encountered in ensuring identity proofing methods are both secure and accessible for various diverse user groups?
- Has your facility encountered synthetic identity fraud and deepfake technologies and have they impacted secure identity proofing? Has your facility developed any measures that can counter these threats?

# Discussion & Questions

## *Identity Proofing* – Addressing Challenges

- What are the most significant challenges your facility has faced in managing identities across multiple platforms and systems?
- What has been your facility's experience in effectively addressing the issue of identity silos and ensure a seamless user experience?
- What measures has your organization taken to balance the need for robust identity management with the increasing demand for privacy and user control?
- How has the growth of remote work and BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) environments impacted identity management strategies within your organization?
- What role has Zero Trust security played in addressing identity management challenges at your facility and how do you feel other facilities could implement it effectively?





## Topic 2: 4DW

Challenges



# Discussion & Questions

*Four Directions Warehouse (4DW)*

- 4DW Update



# References



- IHS Health Modernization webpage: <https://www.ihs.gov/hit/>
- IHS Health IT Modernization Implementation Focus Group page: <https://www.ihs.gov/hit/get-involved/focus-groups/>

# Data Management & Analytics Timeline





# Upcoming Engagements

Eric J. Newland - *Data Management & Analytics*  
*Focus Group Facilitator*

# 2025 TRIBAL CONSULTATION *and* URBAN CONFER

with the Health IT Modernization Program



**PATH EHR SCOPE  
AND CAPABILITIES**  
**AUGUST 7**



**PILOT SITE IMPLEMENTATION  
PATHWAY**  
**NOVEMBER 6**



Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer (TC/UC) sessions provide an opportunity for our tribal and urban Indian organization partners to hear about Program updates from IHS leadership and provide input about modernization-focused topics for continued improvement of patient outcomes across Indian Country.



*Participate in*

## THE HEALTH IT MODERNIZATION PROGRAM AWARENESS SURVEY



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM OUR  
**TRIBAL & URBAN  
PARTNERS**

SCAN ME



# Stay Connected with the IHS

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or by following us on social media



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LinkedIn



X (formerly Twitter)

