The IHS Health Information Technology Modernization Program

TRIBAL CONSULTATION / URBAN CONFERENCE
MAY 3, 2022
Technical Notes and Support

- If you lose connectivity during the Session simply **re-click your access link** to re-join the meeting.
- If you experience technical difficulties, **send a note using the chat box** on the bottom menu bar - we’ll assist you from there.

- Enjoy the Session!
Rules of Engagement

- **Before commenting or asking a question**, please state your name and the tribe or organization you are representing either verbally or in the chat box.

- Active participation is welcome from Tribal Leaders and Urban Indian Organization Leaders only.

- Members of industry and other participants are invited to listen only unless directly addressed.
  - Questions asked on behalf of vendors will not be answered.
Opening in a Good Way
Agenda

- Introductions
- Health IT Modernization Summary
- Why Governance? - Leadership Roles in IT Governance
- Role of Focus Groups
- Q&A - Governance
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What does Governance mean to you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do T/U govern their current IT investments?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How can we contribute to effective IT Governance? Individually and together?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What tools will we be using to receive and share information?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you see as effective IT governance?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IHS Health IT Modernization Summary

- In consultation with tribes, the Indian Health Service (IHS) has begun a multi-year Health Information Technology (IT) Modernization
- At the center of the Modernization is the replacement of the Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) with a commercial electronic health record (EHR) solution that meets or exceeds existing capabilities
- The new system will support consistent patient management across Indian country through a user-centered governance model, infrastructure enhancements, and data integration
- This enterprise approach to health information technology can drive multi-generational improvements to the health and well-being of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people
Recurring Appropriations
- FY2020 appropriations included $8M to initiate modernization and establish the Program Management Office
- FY2021 appropriations increased to $34.5M for the Health IT Modernization Program
- The FY2022 Omnibus appropriation added $110M for a total of $144.5M in recurring funding for EHR modernization

One-Time Funding
- The CARES Act of 2020 provided $65M in one-time funding to accelerate the Program
- The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided $70M of one-time funding in FY2021 for the IHS Electronic Health Record
- IHS also distributed $141M from the CARES ACT and ARPA to federal, tribal, and urban sites in FY2021 for telehealth and technology needs
Program Major Milestones

2018
- HHS/IHS Modernization Research Project initiated to identify approaches for IHS Health IT modernization

2019
- Final report published, representing extensive research and tribal consultations providing four approaches to modernization

2020
- Health FFRDC Task Order and Kickoff
- Program Management Office stand-up
- Listening Sessions on modernization approaches

2021
- Decision memo for replacement of RPMS
- Listening Sessions
- Initial Acquisition Strategy
- PMO Design & Phased Implementation
- Request for information (RFI)
- Initiated Executive Steering Committee
- Virtual Industry Day (300+ attendees)
- Congressional Data Call Inquiry Analysis
- Statement of Objectives through two listening sessions and the August 9, 2021, Tribal and Urban Leader Letter
Provided overview of Health IT Modernization Program

Discussed:
- Benefits of Modernization
- Program trajectory
- Acquisition strategy
- Invited feedback on focus groups
- Opened focus group participation for I/T/U clinical and technical SMEs
Why Governance?

DECISION-MAKING AND RESULTS
Operating in a Complex Environment
RPMS Replacement Impact on I/T/U Programs

EHR Users - IHS/Tribal/Urban (I/T/U)

Compacted Shares

1. Commercial EHR users can continue to use existing systems

Retained Shares and Direct Service

2. RPMS users may adopt the IHS Enterprise EHR or transition to a commercial system

3. RPMS will be replaced with the IHS Enterprise EHR

The options and flexibilities guaranteed in P.L. 93-638 remain available

Last Updated: April 7, 2022
Governance Increases Collaboration & User Input

**Federal Responsibilities**
- Health IT Modernization ESC
- PMO

Establish priorities & guide modernization actions
Report progress, elevate program risks, submit resourcing requirements

**Partnership with Tribal & Urban Leaders to Guide Healthcare Modernization**
- Communication with all I/T/U partners (12 IHS Areas, 574 Tribes, 41 UIOs)
- Interoperability Group
- Data Management & Analytics Group
- Health IT Implementation Advisory Group

Consult and Confer in partnership to achieve program outcomes

**Enterprise System Management**

**Sample Topics**
- Quality
- Purchased/Referred Care
- Hospital/ED Services
- Health Information
- Specialty Care
- Management
- Behavioral Health Ancillary Care
- Population Health
- Care
- Patient Engagement
- Revenue Cycle
- More . . .

**Legend:**
- Step 1 – Federal responsibilities
- Step 2 - tribal, urban, and federal (IHS)
- Step 3 - I/T/U enterprise solution participant agreement*

Routine meetings to achieve program outcomes

Share experience and perspectives

* Defined in a new agreement with participants in the Enterprise Solution

Last Updated: April 7, 2022
Improved decision-making has proven critical for EHR rollout

“We’re really saying this (EHR) is not about IT, it’s about health care transformation.” – Washington Post
- **Use evidence** to build understanding of progress and challenges in Health IT Modernization Program

- **Inform decision making** for the Executive Steering Committee (ESC) in execution of its responsibilities

- **Engage partners** to develop a human-centric solution that contributes to improving the health status of AI/AN people

- **Facilitate broad contribution** across tribes and I/T/U healthcare facilities

- **Gain knowledge** to support clinical and business decisions
Five Leadership Roles Critical to IT Governance

1. **Representation** Representing all key partner organizations required to provide strategic input and identify key health care changes that guide what success looks like

2. **Focus** Maintaining a relentless focus on the “core business” on healthcare delivery and care with absolute clarity on critical gaps, key outcomes, and vulnerable groups

3. **Data** Using quality data and information, including local intelligence, to inform resource allocation and monitor and review progress

4. **Partnership** Ensuring the partnership is working, with its frameworks, roles and responsibilities; focusing on challenges and support, rather than blame

5. **Results** Creating accountability for key results
Focus Groups

DRIVING MODERNIZATION THROUGH I/T/U SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS
Focus Group Priorities

**Interoperability Group**
Responsible for reviewing and suggesting strategies, operational requirements, clinical practice standards, and performance measures that inform the interoperability solution design and project planning.

**Data Management & Analytics Group**
Responsible for reviewing and suggesting strategies that support effective data use, security and privacy controls, and standards.

**Implementation Group**
Responsible for helping the ESC understand the lessons learned, challenges, and strategies used by other federal agencies, tribes, and urban Indian organizations to modernize their Health IT capabilities.
Call to Action: Identify Subject Matter Experts

- If you would like to identify someone from your organization for the Focus Groups, please contribute your selections via IHSHITModernization@ihs.gov. Include the following information in the email:
  - Name
  - Title
  - Credentials
  - Organization
  - Email address, and
  - Focus Group(s) participation
Questions & Answers

INPUT ON HEALTH IT MODERNIZATION GOVERNANCE
### Question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What does Governance mean to you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do T/U govern their current IT investments?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How can we contribute to effective IT Governance? Individually and together?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What tools will we be using to receive and share information?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you see as effective IT governance?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Last Updated: April 7, 2022
Closing

- Please submit written comments on Health IT Modernization following the session by **E-MAIL** to consultation@ihs.gov or urbanconfer@ihs.gov, respectively. Please use the SUBJECT LINE: Health IT Modernization.
- Please provide written comments by June 3, 2022.
- Next Tribal Consult/Urban Confer:

  DATE: Tuesday, August 2, 2022  
  TOPIC: Health IT Modernization Data Management Strategy  
  TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Eastern Time)

  REGISTER AT: https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItPdO-pqTMpH1V4kw5nhRspvB1iUVXyqs
To learn more about the IHS Health Information Modernization Program visit the IHS website

Or contact:

Mitchell Thornbrugh – mitchell.thornbrugh@ihs.gov
Andrea Scott – andrea.scott@ihs.gov
Dr. Howard Hays – howard.hays@ihs.gov

To sign up for Program updates visit the Sign Up page on the IHS website
Health IT Modernization
Dear Tribal/Urban Indian Leader Letters

- **February 2022** – DTLL announcing a series of upcoming Tribal Consultation/Urban Confer sessions around the Health IT Modernization, in particular Program updates, opportunities for participation, and next steps
- **August 2021** – DTLL announcing Program updates and asking for written feedback to the RFI containing the Statement of Objectives
- **May 2021** – DTLL announcing Listening Sessions on the draft Statement of Objectives for the Modernization
- **May 2021** – Hosted a virtual Industry Day event on May 21, 2021
- **May 2021** – DTLL announcing a data call to inform Tribal Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations’ experiences with electronic health record acquisitions and costs
- **April 2021** – DTLL announcing IHS decision for full replacement of the Resource and Patient Management System after significant Tribal and Urban engagement and input
- **December 2020** – DTLL announcing Listening Sessions for input on next steps in the Health IT Modernization
- **November 2019** – DTLL announcing the Strategic Options for the Modernization of the Indian Health Service Health Information Technology Roadmap Executive Summary and Strategic Options for the Modernization of the Indian Health Service Health Information Technology Final Report
- **October 2018** – DTLL announcing the IHS Health IT Research Project and first steps in evaluation options in modernizing Health IT
- **July 2017** – DTLL announcing two additional listening sessions for further input and recommendations around how to best modernize the RPMS EHR
- **June 2017** – DTLL announcing two listening sessions for input and recommendations around approaches to modernize the RPMS EHR