Building a “Meaningful Community” for HIT in Texas
Lessons from the Wizard of Oz

HFMA Lone Star Chapter Major League Institute

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Learning Objectives

This presentation will discuss the HITECH Act in Texas by using the story of the Wizard of Oz to frame observations and lessons learned over the last 5 years.

The audience will revisit a childhood classic while becoming familiar with the vision and concept of a “meaningful community” that begins with Meaningful Use and extends to all aspects of healthcare information technology.

Appropriate for all levels of expertise, this session will challenge the audience to think about their daily work in a more meaningful way, and will give them tools and tips intended to maximize their contributions to the healthcare system.
Learning Objectives

What is the Texas e-Health Alliance?
- State’s leading advocate, from local communities to the national level, for the use of health information technology to improve the health system for patients
- 501(c)6 non-profit started in 2009
- Serves as a trade association for HIT companies

What is e-Health?
- E-health is the transfer of health resources and health care by electronic means

Internet Revolution: Value to Users

Today, health care information technology (HIT) is at the “1997” of the Internet age

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Education & Social Stratification Branch, “Reported Internet Usage for Households, by Selected Household Characteristics,” 2007
• Texas Status Pre-HITECH
  – Texas Health Services Authority created in 2007
  – Most statutes and processes geared toward paper/fax

• HITECH passage in 2009 included 3 key components:
  – EHR Adoption Incentives and Penalties
  – HIE Planning and Implementation
  – Strengthening HIPAA to Protect Patient Privacy

HITECH in Texas

• State Level Implementation
  – HHSC administered EHR Incentive Program and local HIE grant program (over $1 billion)
  – THSA implementing white space strategy and state-level shared services
  – Local HIEs completed planning and moving into implementation

• Federal Implementation
  – HIPAA final rules implementing HITECH final in January 2013
  – FDA guidance on mobile medical devices
  – ONC working through the stages of meaningful use
Texas Legislature

• Before 2005 – 0 health IT bills filed
• 2005 – 1 health IT bill filed
• 2007 – 6 health IT bills filed
• 2009 – 30 health IT bills filed
• 2011- 3 health IT bills filed
  – Electronic prescribing
  – Privacy
  – Telehealth/remote monitoring
• 2013 – 1 health IT specific bill filed
  – Driver’s license mag swipes
    • THSA funding
    • DPS drug database access
    • Telemedicine in nursing homes

Topics for 2015

• Interoperability and use of standards in state agency IT systems
• HHS System Sunset review
• Access to public health registries for HIEs
• Provider/HIE “safe harbors”
• Remote monitoring
• Consumer telemedicine
So...how do we make a “Meaningful Community”?

• We can’t be the Wizard behind the curtain
• We have to win the loyalty of patients and their families
• We must stay connected to each other
• We have to be willing to throw a bucket of water on someone from time to time

If I Only Had a Brain...
Scarecrow: I haven't got a brain... only straw.
Dorothy: How can you talk if you haven't got a brain?
Scarecrow: I don't know... But some people without brains do an awful lot of talking... don't they?
Dorothy: Yes, I guess you're right.

If We Have a Brain...

We use technology in a meaningful way:
• Substantive outcomes
• Reliable systems
• Virtual medicine
If We Have a Brain...

Technology will line up with consumer expectations:

• On-demand
• Personalized
• Portable

To be a Meaningful Community:
We can’t be the Wizard behind the curtain
If I Only Had a Heart...

Wizard of Oz: A heart is not judged by how much you love; but by how much you are loved by others.
If We Have a Heart...

We use technology in a meaningful way:
• It’s about empowering the community
• Technology can become invisible
• We don’t sell widgets just to sell them

If We Have a Heart...

Technology will inspire consumer confidence by:
• Respecting individual rights
• Protecting privacy and providing security
• Enabling and empowering health care consumers
To be a Meaningful Community:
We have to win the loyalty of patients and their families

If I Only Had a Home...
Dorothy: Oh, but anyway, Toto, we're home. Home! And this is my room, and you're all here. And I'm not gonna leave here ever, ever again, because I love you all, and - oh, Auntie Em - there's no place like home!

If We Have a Home...

We take advantage of the new delivery systems that are emerging:

• Patient centered medical homes
• Accountable Care Organizations
• Home services (monitoring, wearables)
If We Have a Home…

We use health IT to strengthen existing relationships and produce new ones:
• Between providers
• Between academic institutions
• Let’s not forget long-term care

To be a Meaningful Community: We must stay connected to each other
If I Only Had the Nerve...

Cowardly Lion: Courage! What makes a king out of a slave? Courage! What makes the flag on the mast to wave? Courage! What makes the elephant charge his tusk in the misty mist, or the dusky dusk? What makes the muskrat guard his musk? Courage! What makes the sphinx the seventh wonder? Courage! What makes the dawn come up like thunder? Courage! What makes the Hottentot so hot? What puts the "ape" in apricot? What have they got that I ain't got?
If We Have the Nerve...

We acknowledge that we’re facing a perfect storm:
• Demographic changes among patients and providers
• Shifting policy and regulatory environment
• Competition for resources

If We Have the Nerve...

We look for the opportunities in the chaos by:
• Challenging the status quo
• Being a champion for change
• Changing the game
To be a Meaningful Community:
We must not be afraid to throw a bucket of water on someone from time to time

Helpful Links

http://www.txrecs.org/

http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/

http://www.hietexas.org/

http://www.tmhp.com/Pages/HealthIT/HIT_Home.aspx

http://www.himss.org/
Questions?

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