Updates from the February 2022 Digital Bridge Annual Meeting

On February 25, the Digital Bridge Collaborative Body convened virtually for its Annual Meeting. The half-day meeting convened 45 attendees, with representatives from the healthcare, public health, and industry partner sectors. See below for the meeting objectives. For a full meeting summary, see here.

- Review and finalize prioritization of recommendations from the data modernization reports
- Discuss re-envisioning and sustainability of the Digital Bridge for long and short-term

The following decisions were made by the Collaborative Body:

- Build off of the discussion from the Collaborative Body in the world café breakout groups to inform a report on the recommendations for data modernization.
- Convene a re-envisioning and sustainability workgroup, led by Walter Suarez (Kaiser Permanente) and Bob Harmon (Cerner).
- Hold nominations and election process for Chair position, At-Large and Public Health on Executive Committee in May/June.

Data Modernization Reports

Data modernization is one of the most significant developments in public health informatics and information systems in decades. It has attracted significant attention from organizations across the country resulting in multiple reports. In order to reconcile and prioritize the hundreds of recommendations made from these reports, an ad hoc workgroup of the Executive Committee has worked together to review the following reports and compile recommendations from each of the reports. They divided out recommendations that fell into different themes and combined similar recommendations that came from disparate sources. Some of the reports have similar recommendations.

- Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC) Report
- National Academy of Medicine - Public Health COVID-19 Impact Assessment: Lessons Learned and Compelling Needs
- Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC)
- RWJF National Commission on Future of Public Health Data Systems
- PHII: Build Back Better

The Executive Committee and IPHI developed a survey, disseminated to the Collaborative Body, to identify the recommendations that should be a high priority in the next three years. Using the input from the survey, Digital Bridge will issue a report on priority recommendations for public health data modernization from the unique perspective of a collaborative of public health, health care, health information industry partners, and public health funders. The report will be based on the results of the survey and the deliberations from today's meeting. The purpose of this work is to inform the field of how the Collaborative Body views and prioritizes the myriad recommendations on data modernization initiatives. The survey asked respondents to identify the recommendations they feel should be a high priority within the next three years. Each section had an "other"

selection for comments or substitute summary recommendation that they would like to propose.

The results from this survey informed our discussion in a modified world café during the annual meeting. IPHI pulled the top 3-4 recommendations from the survey results as well as written in content for each of the priorities. Collaborative Body members provided their expert feedback and insights to the report recommendations.

Workgroup Updates

Expanding the Collaborative Body

The following organizations have been added to the Collaborative Body:
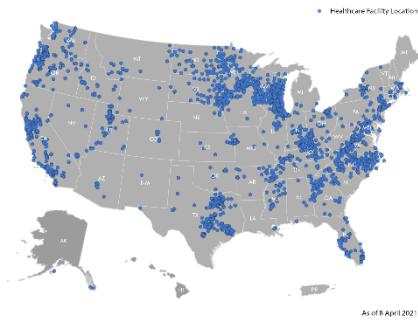
National Coalition on Health Care

The National Coalition on Health Care (NCHC) was formed more than two decades ago to help achieve comprehensive health system change and is currently led by John Rother. We aim to be a leader in promoting a healthy population and a more effective, efficient and responsive health system that provides quality care for all. NCHC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization of organizations. Our growing Coalition represents more than 80 participating organizations, including medical societies, businesses, unions, health care providers, faith-based associations, pension and health funds, insurers, and groups representing consumers, patients, women, minorities and persons with disabilities. Collectively, our organizations represent, as employees, members or congregants, more than 100 million Americans.

SAS

SAS is the leader in analytics. Through our software and services, we inspire customers around the world to transform data into intelligence. Our curiosity fuels innovation, pushing boundaries, challenging the status quo and changing the way we live. SAS is committed to providing epidemiologic subject matter expertise on nationally-notifiable conditions, as well as technologic knowledge on developing exchanges with EHR systems for integration into public health registries. SAS has prioritized Public Health Modernization as a key initiative among its US government divisions. SAS technology has expanded to support enterprise data solutions, investigative case management, and of course, analytics. SAS' mission is to empower and inspire with the most trusted analytics.

eCR update

Healthcare Facility Location

As of 8 April 2021

Electronic case reporting (eCR) is a critical tool for COVID-19, providing the clinical patient data that state and local public health agencies need for action. The eCR team continues to make progress in implementing eCR for COVID-19. One year after COVID-19 became a reportable condition, all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Washington D.C., and several large local jurisdictions have authored and connected to the APHL Informatics Messaging Services (AIMS) platform. As of April 12, 2021, over 7,300 healthcare facilities are using eCR and have sent more than 7.5 million electronic initial case reports for COVID-19 to 63 public health agencies.

Unlike traditional case reporting, using eCR can eliminate the need for manual data entry and reduces the reporting workload for healthcare staff. As a result, healthcare organizations and providers across the country can fulfill legal reporting requirements while keeping their focus on patient care. In addition to sending direct feedback to healthcare providers, public health agencies use eCR for disease tracking, case management, and contact tracing for COVID-19 and all other reportable conditions.

To learn more, visit www.cdc.gov/ecr and https://ecr.aimsplatform.org, or e-mail ecr@cdc.gov.