

ASTHO Comments to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics Subcommittee on Standards Hearing: Public Health Data Standards

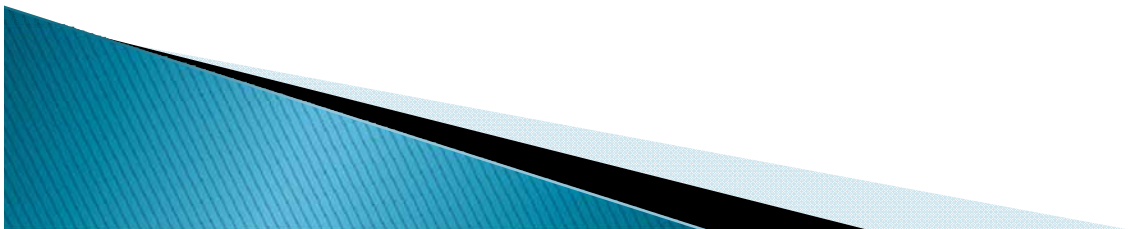
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Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
November 12, 2013



ASTHO

- ▶ ASTHO represents public health agencies in United States, U.S. Territories and Freely Associated Nations, and the District of Columbia
- ▶ ASTHO's primary functions:
 - Track, evaluate, and advise members on the impact and formation of public or private health policy which may affect them
 - Provide members with guidance and technical assistance on improving the nation's health



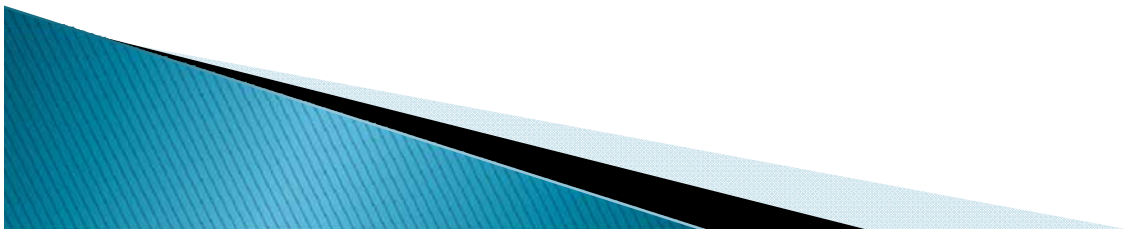
Role of ASTHO in Public Health Standards

- ▶ Policy Analysis and Advocacy
 - Meaningful Use
 - Interstate Data Exchange
 - Primary Care and Public Health Integration
- ▶ Technical Assistance
 - ICD-10
 - Meaningful Use
- ▶ Member Engagement
 - eHealth Policy Committee
 - Informatics Directors Peer Network



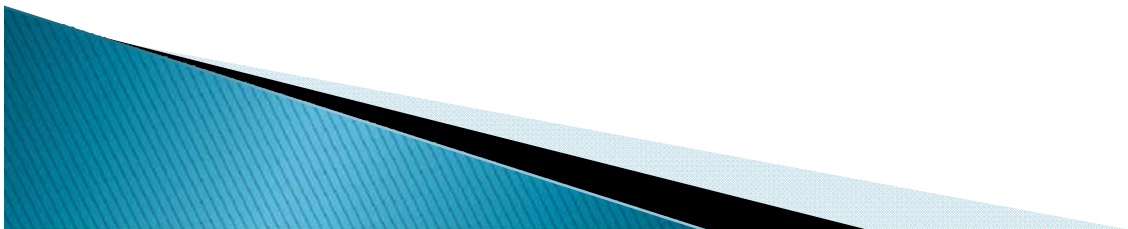
Collaborative Standards Development– New York State Example

- ▶ Multi-state Interoperability Working Group (IWG) consisting of 19 States (representing 52% of the U.S. population), 22 EHR vendors, and 23 HIE vendors was formed.
 - Launched February 2011
 - New York e-Health Collaborative (NYeC) lead organization as state designated HIE
 - Leveraged existing standards and developed consistent implementation guides for interoperability between HIE software platforms, and the applications that interface with them.
- ▶ Participants committed to comply with standards jointly developed by IWG



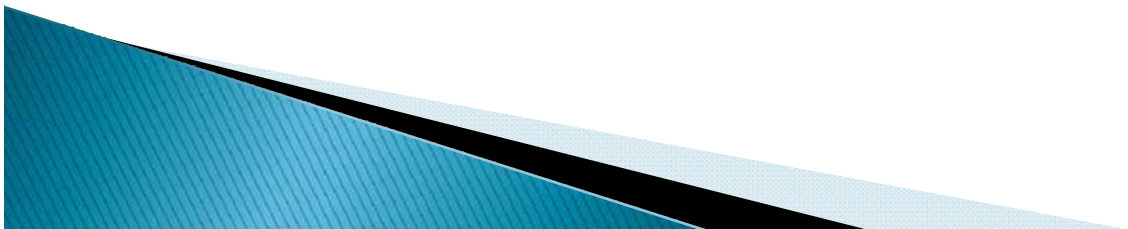
Collaborative Standards Development– New York State Example

- ▶ IWG focused on clinical summary document (CDA),
- ▶ IWG has ratified interoperability standards
 - Statewide Send & Receive Patient Record Exchange S
 - Statewide Patient Data Inquiry Service
- ▶ Based on these standards, IWG designed certification program for EHR, HIE and HISP vendors
 - Certification program currently in development with Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT)
- ▶ The IWG functions mostly via conference call, but has funding through a cooperative agreement from ONC to the New York e-Health Collaborative (NYeC) for the staff to develop the standards



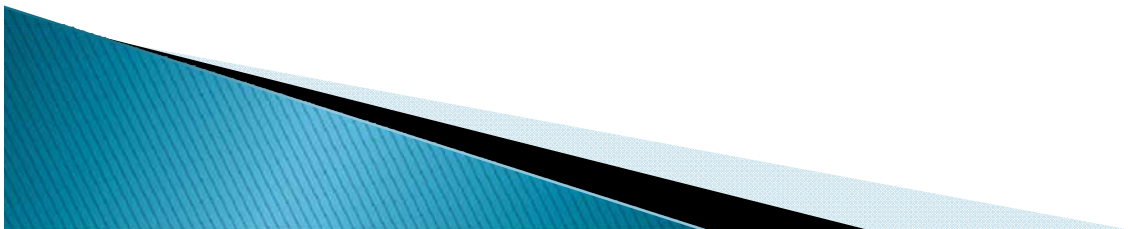
Collaborative Standards Development– New York State Example

- ▶ This approach should be explored for standardization of public health data exchange
 - New York State believes similar group of states could be established to develop standards for public health priorities
- ▶ Having HIEs and EHR vendors at the table will ensure public health standards can be realistically implemented by these critical partners
- ▶ State and local public health agency representatives need to have a leadership role in this the IWG.
- ▶ Funding would be needed to support agency staff participation, including staff time to write the standards



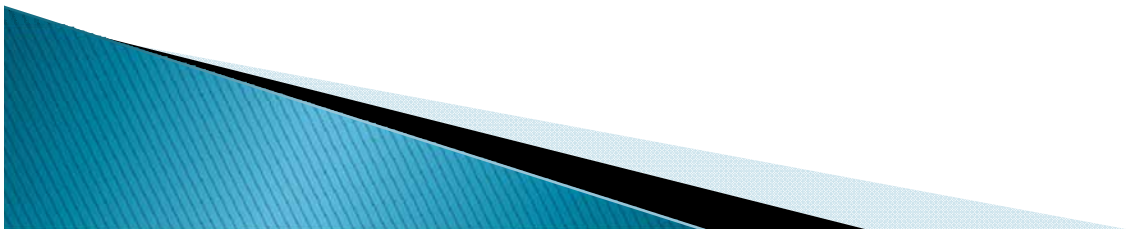
Privacy and Security of Public Health Data

- ▶ Public health participation in HIE increasing
 - Clinical partners and HIEs need assurance that public health agencies are following strict security standards
- ▶ HIPAA public health exception does not require adherence to same privacy and security standards in public health
- ▶ No privacy and security standards across public health



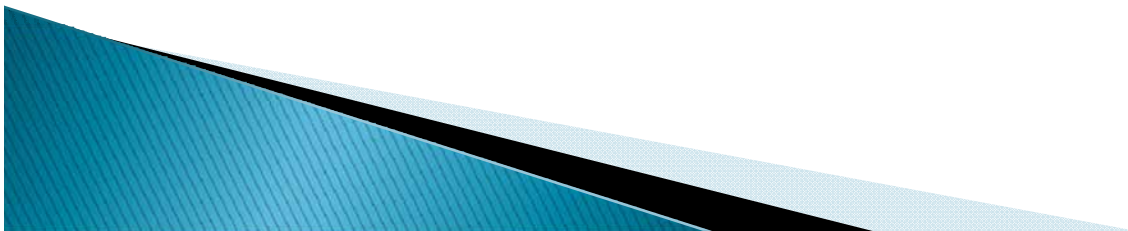
Privacy and Security of Public Health Data

- ▶ Utah recently experienced significant breach that required thorough review of privacy and security policies and practices
 - As a HIPAA hybrid entity, only the covered portion of their data was protected by HIPAA security standards
- ▶ The SHA made a strategic decision to protect all public health data with HIPAA-level privacy policies and security standards as the lowest level of protection



Privacy and Security of Public Health Data

- ▶ Public health agencies should consider HIPAA security protections to be lowest level of protection for all public health data
- ▶ Costs of systems improvements and staff time to develop policies will likely be significant to meet these standards
 - Given budgetary, funding sources will likely be needed from the federal level to support policy development and system security enhancements.



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