

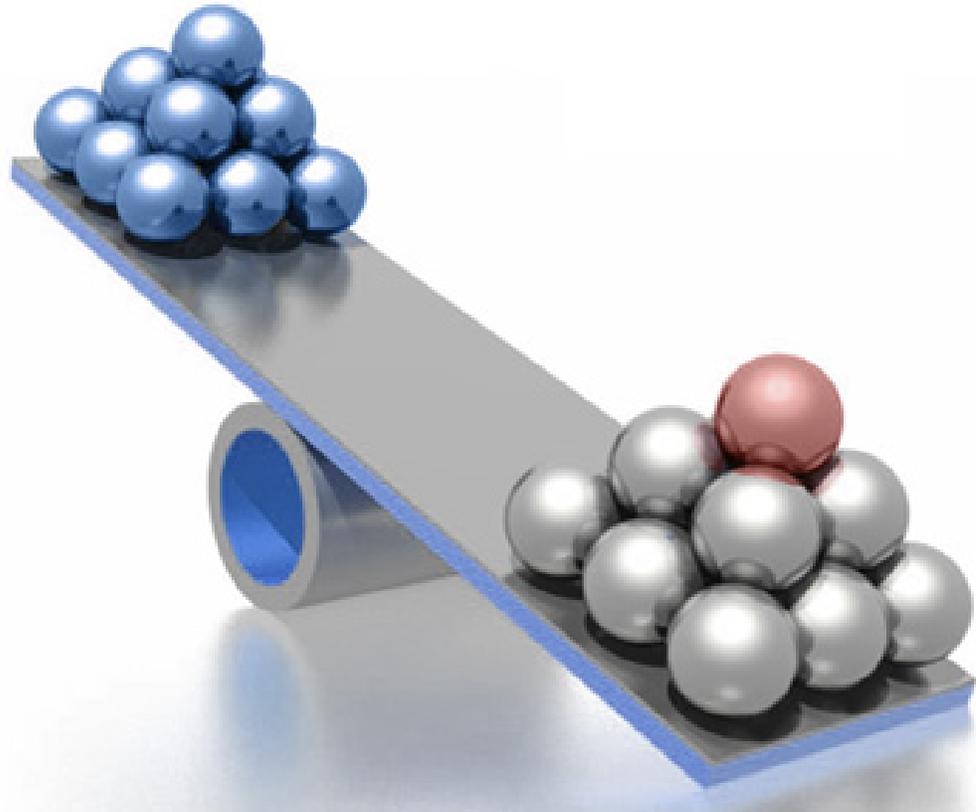


WISHIN

WISCONSIN STATEWIDE HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK

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Evaluating Existing HIE Assets



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DOCUMENT PURPOSE

This document outlines a draft approach for reviewing and evaluating existing Health Information Exchange (HIE) assets in Wisconsin in order to determine the best way to leverage them as part of a Statewide Health Information Network (SHIN) and to ensure that they are appropriately integrated into WISHIN's Phase 2 RFP.

BACKGROUND

The Strategic and Operational Plan (SOP), developed as part of the Wisconsin Relay of Electronic Data (WIRED) for Health project, defined a path to successful adoption and use of a SHIN. One of the goals identified in the plan is for Wisconsin to develop a scalable, standards-based technical architecture that supports interoperability and leverages existing investments in health information technology. The SOP recognizes that success is dependent on support and use of the SHIN by key Wisconsin stakeholders, and that some stakeholders already have small-to-medium scale HIEs functioning within their respective organizations or medical trading area. The plan's proposed SHIN architecture accounts for existing assets as a way to accelerate the adoption and use of SHIN services.

The following existing HIE assets were identified and discussed in the SOP:

1. Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR)
2. Wisconsin Medical Society (WMS) Provider Directory
3. Wisconsin Health Information Exchange (WHIE)
4. Community Health Information Collaborative (CHIC)
5. Marshfield Clinic's Nationwide Health Information Network (NwHIN) connection to the Social Security Administration's (SSA's) Medical Evidence Gathering and Analysis through Health Information Technology (MEGAHIT) system.
6. Kiara Clinical Integration Network (KCIN) Hospital Sisters Health System (HSBS) "Friends and Family" HIE

Each of these existing HIE assets must be assessed and evaluated in order to determine the best way to leverage them as part of a SHIN and to ensure that they are appropriately integrated into WISHIN's Phase 2 RFP.

PROCESS FOR ENGAGING AND ASSESSING ASSETS

The following process documents how each of the existing HIE assets will be evaluated.

1. Establish a guide to assess the assets to be leveraged
 - a. Do we need to scale this asset to support statewide functions or is this a necessary regional element that should be part of a "network of networks"
 - b. Is it necessary to scale this asset, or can/should it function in place as is?
2. Interview each of the asset owners/managers and, where appropriate, key stakeholders with the following discussion points (see Appendix A for a template for these interviews):
 - a. Current vendor involvement, current version of software, plans for certification where applicable
 - b. Current functionality
 - i. User Interface/Portal
 - ii. Interfaces or other connectivity
 - iii. "Core Services" for HIE
 - c. Interoperability capabilities and standards adoption.
 - i. Standards that are currently supported for query/response structure

- ii. Standards that are currently supported for data “extract/import”
 - iii. Standards for terminology normalization
 - d. Scalability and extensibility of the asset to statewide HIE services
 - i. Is scaling required or is this a regional asset that will operate as point on a “network of networks”?
 - 1. If this is only a point on the “network of networks”, ensure documentation of applied standards for communication and establish process for identification of message management based on business rules.
 - ii. License/cost impact at order of magnitude level
 - iii. Scope of work to accomplish scalability
 - e. Current interoperability examples in Wisconsin or elsewhere
3. Assess the asset as part of a “network of networks” and/or “regional HIE”:
- a. Population served
 - b. Functionality provided
 - c. Contribution to “network of networks” and “regional HIE”
 - d. Forecast impact of scaling when needed. Total solution or partial solution?
 - e. Forecast impact of alternate solution (as part of RFP) comparative process (e.g. consider sunk and ongoing cost vs. replacement cost with tool to be used as alternate)
 - f. Cost of integration and functionality vs. value comparison
4. Document findings and determine how to integrate results into the RFP. Be sure to include a mechanism for reviewing and assessing vendor respondents’ capabilities to:
- a. Integrate with existing assets through query-response or other service structure
 - i. Alignment of standards
 - ii. Examples of other asset integration
5. After RFP responses are reviewed, discuss final responses with Technical Committee and make final decisions regarding which assets are a strong match for integration with the SHIN. Include RFP responses and findings from asset interviews, especially around interoperability, functionality, and scalability (including costs). Some considerations include:
- a. If the vendor respondent(s) have similar functionality as part of their offering:
 - i. How do the costs of the existing asset compare to the cost from the vendor respondent(s)?
 - ii. What functionality is gained or lost by using the existing asset vs. the asset proposed by the vendor respondent(s)?
 - iii. How do the timeframes compare for integrating an existing asset vs. using the asset from vendor respondent(s)?
6. Draft agreements, as needed, for “integration” of asset and/or asset data for integration in SHIN as part of “network of networks”

7. Assess alignment, as appropriate, of consent and other privacy/security considerations. Document differences, review with WISHIN Policy Committee and collaboratively draft options on accomplishing alignment of policies and procedures.
8. Include step in Phase 2 plan for “integration work” of assets, whether as SHIN asset, or as a point in “network of networks”.

APPENDIX A: ASSESSMENT INTERVIEW TEMPLATE

Role of the asset:

1. Associate the asset to infrastructure, core services and/or specific use cases anticipated.
2. Is this the asset itself (e.g. user interface, network), is this data contained in the existing asset, or both?
3. If considering the asset itself:
 - a. What is the existing “sunk” cost from “the state” for the asset?
 - b. What is the expense to raise the operations of the existing asset to level required to support the SHIN?
 - c. What are the ongoing maintenance fees to continue providing the services?
 - d. What interoperability standards are currently supported?
 - e. Where else is this asset, with this functionality and from this vendor, implemented?
 - f. What are the costs to integrate this asset as part of a “network of networks”?
 - g. What is the time frame/duration of undertaking the “integration” and is this within the time period for WISHIN Phase II services?
4. If considering the data from the asset and not the asset itself (e.g. data from provider directory rather than the provider directory as asset):
 - a. What are the timeliness constraints, to support functional requirements, needed from an existing asset to support use of its data?
 - b. Is the current system capable of exporting the data in a structure, manner, and frequency to support “upload” of the data into the selected vendor solution? Or is real-time access offered?
 - i. What is the cost to bring the asset up to a level that would allow an export? Or, what is the cost that would allow real-time access?
 - c. Is the data comprehensive and/or is the current system capable of importing data from other sources in a structure, manner and frequency needed to support the SHIN?
 - i. If not, what is the cost to bring the asset up to a level that would allow such import?
 - d. What is the ongoing cost of maintaining this capability?
 - e. What interoperability standards are currently supported?
 - f. Where else is this asset, with this functionality and from this vendor, implemented?
 - g. What portion of the above are asset expenses vs. WISHIN expenses (e.g. are there other uses of the capability, or is this just for WISHIN supported use)?
 - h. Is the data in the existing asset of an acceptable level of detail, accuracy and integrity to be included in the SHIN? If not, what would it take to bring this data up to required levels? What other resources, if any, have similar data to the asset within the state? Elsewhere? And if one or more are identified, repeat questions in #4 for that alternate source.
 - i. Are there secure capabilities for the export/import and transfer of data between the asset and a selected vendor?