

**Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
August, ME**

Connecting Maine

www.mcph.org

http://www.mhint.org/pubhealth_comm.html

Project Objectives/Key Activities

Strengthen the relationship between state and local public health and health care informatics in Maine by extending the collaboration among them, linking two data integration efforts, and developing a pilot project linking a state and local health department with Maine's health information exchange.

Objectives:

- Establish a highly collaborative structure between Maine Health Information Network Technology (MHINT) governance and Maine's Integrated Public Health Information System (IPHIS), and organizations at the state and local levels.
- Write privacy and security policies appropriate to public health and IPHIS into the MHINT project.
- Create a deliverable, the MHINT Functional Design Document, to address the integration of IPHIS into the MHINT project.
- Develop a prototype data plan for analysis of benefit to public health and MHINT in the Portland area

Key Activities:

- Forming a MHINT Public Health Work Group to guide project deliverables;
- Technically linking Portland Public Health to IPHIS;
- Assessing state/national privacy legislation/standards, and investigating national best practices and products;
- Recommending necessary legislative action; and Identifying gaps in current data sharing/analysis capabilities between local and State PH and MHINT, and creating a prototype for a bi-directional data exchange between PH and MHINT.

Stage of the Health Information Exchange

(Please select the eHI stages of Health Information Exchange that best represents your project's stage of development.)

Stage 3 Transferring vision, goals & objectives to tactics and business plans.

Defining needs and requirements. Securing funding.

Stage 4 Well underway with implementation - technical, financial and legal.

Partners

Maine Center for Public Health (MCPH) - The mission of MCPH is "to improve the health of Maine citizens through an organized program of research, education/training, technical assistance and policy analysis". MCPH and MCDC efforts led to the establishment of 31 "Healthy Maine Partnerships" (HMPs). The

HMP network is strategically linked to MCDC to form a rudimentary statewide PH structure.

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, (MCDC) - The Integrated Public Health Information System (IPHIS) is based at MCDC. IPHIS will offer public health practitioners and private providers access to a wealth of health information on the Web. IPHIS allows each public health program to maintain its own database while contributing data to a central data repository. The integrated system will offer immunization registry data, vital records, lab results, health alerts, and other critical information displayed within a unified Web interface via a secure, single sign-on.

The Maine Health Information Center (MHIC) - MHIC is a statewide, independent nonprofit health data research organization that focuses on providing health data research, database management, and survey coordination to clients in Maine and elsewhere.

City of Portland Public Health Division (PPH) - PPH is the local public health agency in Maine's most populous and diverse city. In addition to health promotion, maternal and child health, and disease investigation programs, PPH runs a Free Clinic with Mercy Hospital, an HIV/STD clinic, a primary health care program for the HIV positive, a needle exchange program, an immunization program, a homeless health care center that is a FQHC, and five school-based health centers.

Background of the Health Information Exchange

IPHIS, which will integrate 20+ disparate public health data systems, is scheduled to 'go live' in early 2006. The MHINT project will select a national technical vendor partner in spring 2006, and accelerate technical planning to allow first stage implementation of a statewide system by early 2007, with pilot development in 2006. The IPHIS project needs an immediate, direct link to PPH. This project will establish this link and ensure a high level of coordination between public health and other health care providers as the two systems (IPHIS and MHINT) are developed in the months ahead. The merging timelines of IPHIS and MHINT and the identified data needs of PPH, make this the perfect time to connect public health with the developing statewide clinical information exchange.

Challenges/Strategies

Communicating the business case: Creating a common language to convey the mutual benefits of integrating PH and clinical care data, and the points of divergence between the disciplines.

Policies and protocols for public-private partnerships – Developing data sharing policies and protocols, confidentiality and security safeguards, and technical compatibility between public and private sectors

Business process change – incorporating business process changes (e.g., at all points of collaboration - state and local PH, and clinical care) identified during the PPH pilot.

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