



## InfoLinks CoP: A Model for Knowledge and Expertise Sharing

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Janise Richards, PhD, MPH, MS, National Center for Public Health Informatics, CDC  
David Ross, ScD, Public Health Informatics Institute  
Keena Hamilton, MA, Northrop Grumman/CDC  
Jim Mootrey, Public Health Informatics Institute  
Ellen Wild, MPH, Public Health Informatics Institute

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## InfoLinks CoP Mission

InfoLinks CoP was formed to share knowledge gained through public health participation in health information exchanges (HIE) and to spark innovation in the ways public health contributes to and benefits from an HIE

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## InfoLinks Background

- Builds upon the InformationLinks Program
- Funded by CDC and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) in conjunction with Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII)
  - Convenes state, local, territorial, and other public health members
- Collectively, CoP members bring dozens of years of expertise and involvement with national HIEs to the community
- December 2005 –
  - RWJF funds 21 grantees
    - 9 local, 9 state and 3 public health institutes
- May 2006 –
  - PHII and 10 grantees define and develop a publication targeting private healthcare HIE stakeholders
- July 2007 –
  - "HIEs and Public Health: A Powerful Partnership" published - <http://www.phii.org/pressroom>

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## Health Information Exchange (HIE) is...

- The electronic movement of health-related information among organizations according to nationally recognized standards.
  - The National Alliance for Health Information Technology, April 2008.
- The mobilization of healthcare information electronically across organizations within a region or community. HIE provides the capability to electronically move clinical information between disparate healthcare information systems while maintaining the meaning of the information being exchanged.
  - eHealth Initiative, 2005

...within the public health system

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## “HIEs and Public Health: A Powerful Partnership”



### Aiming for better health

- Five worthy aims for HIE
1. Physicians have easy access to patient-specific information that is housed by public health
  2. Eliminate unnecessary emergency department admissions for chronic conditions
  3. Physicians are fully informed about the health threats in their communities
  4. Physicians are able to prescribe the most effective antibiotic for a patient's condition
  5. Physicians are able to easily report all notifiable disease and conditions

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## The InfoLinks CoP Overarching Goals

- Promote public health participation
- Encourage knowledge sharing and collaboration
- Improve the public health workforce informatics expertise

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## The InfoLinks CoP Timeline

- December 2007 –
  - RWJF and CDC co-funds InfoLinks CoP
- February 2008 –
  - CoP KickOff Webinar Meeting
- March/April 2008 –
  - Pilot Unfunded Knowledge Product Development
- June/July 2008 –
  - CoP Virtual Panel - *Patient Privacy Rights, Public Health, & Ethics*
  - CoP Expertise Sharing - *EHRs & the Exchange of Immunization Data: Pitfalls, Promises, and Potential*

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## The InfoLinks Community:

### Charter Community Members

- Mendocino Informatics – Mendocino County, California
- Santa Cruz Health Services Agency – Santa Cruz, California
- Denver Health Department – Denver, Colorado
- Colorado Health Institute – Denver, Colorado
- Austin/Travis County Department of Health – Austin, Texas
- Louisiana Public Health Institute – Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Louisiana State University Health Science Center – New Orleans, Louisiana
- CareSpark – Nashville, Tennessee
- Indiana State Department of Health – Indianapolis, Indiana
- Ingham County Health Department - Michigan
- Minnesota Department of Health – St Paul, Minnesota
- Wisconsin Department of Health – Madison, Wisconsin
- Rhode Island Department of Health – Providence, Rhode Island
- The New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

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## The InfoLinks Community:

### Staff and Coordinators

- 2 – CDC NCPHI – moderator & coordinator
- 2 – PHII – content & project managers

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**Seven Principles for Cultivating CoPs used:**

- 1) Design for Evolution
- 2) Open a dialogue between inside and outside perspectives
- 3) Invite different levels of participation
- 4) Develop both public and private community spaces
- 5) Focus on value
- 6) Combine familiarity with excitement
- 7) Create a rhythm for the community

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**The InfoLinks CoP Objectives**

- Provide a forum for discussion of HIE, Public Health, and other related issues
- Develop a knowledge repository of HIE related information
- Determine issues that need further investigation or development (knowledge products)
- Convene workgroups to develop needed knowledge products

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**InfoLinks CoP Resources**

- Website
- Email
- Conference calls
- Webinars
- Face-to-Face meetings

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## InfoLinks Discussion Topics

Patient Privacy Rights, Public Health, & Ethics

Electronic Health Records (EHRs) & the Exchange of Immunization Data: Pitfalls, Promises, and Potential

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## InfoLinks CoP Web Portal

Serves as a communication hub and online knowledge repository



<http://www.infolinksproject.org>

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## Online knowledge repository

The InfoLinks CoP seeks to capture the stories of those individuals who have “walked the walk” to provide insights to others who may be embarking on a similar road.

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### Pilot Knowledge Repository Activities

- Virtual Panel discussions
- “Celebrity” guest interviews
  
- Point-Counterpoint/Differing perspectives

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### Lessons Learned

Charter members joined the InfoLinks CoP:

- Because of the people
- For sharing of experiences/best practices/knowledge that can not be found in the literature
- To have a broader understanding of the initiatives happening nationally

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### Lessons Learned

InfoLinks CoP issues:

- Cover a broad range of interests and issues
- Include technical and non-technical issues

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## Lessons Learned

**InfoLinks** CoP meeting format:

- Virtual panel is well received
- Computer moderated question and answers preferred

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## Lessons Learned

**InfoLinks** information disseminated by:

- Web site
- Direct email
- Meetings
- Newsletter

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## Lessons Learned

**InfoLinks** CoP knowledge repository:

- People like the knowledge repository
- Audio, video and text are all needed
- Brief is better

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**Contact Information**

For more information, please contact us at:

[InfoLinks@cdc.gov](mailto:InfoLinks@cdc.gov)

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