



HEALTHIE
NEVADA

Connecting to Care

CVN HCCN 4th Annual HIT Symposium

Interoperability is Crucial;
HIE is the Solution



Nevada HIE Strategy

- Improve our technology platform and create a new co-op business model
 - Connexus Health is being formed to be an HIE cooperative which provides a shared technology solution and joint ownership by HIE Members
 - Lower cost, more flexible and faster development of solutions (use cases)
- Improve HIE funding by establishing a foundation to provide matching funds for HITECH and MITA



COVID Pandemic Response

- Offer free access to non-participants for 90 days
 - Started the program in March
 - Signed on 30 new participants including Intermountain Health
- Deliver COVID test results to customers from the Nevada State Public Health Lab, hospital labs and commercial labs
- Connected to the Southern Nevada Health District and Washoe County Health District



The Statistics on COVID are Staggering

- 5M confirmed cases
- Estimates of 10X the number of real cases due to asymptomatic patients
- Over 200,000 deaths
- Millions of tests performed



The 5 Weapons of Pandemic Response

- Social distancing (including wearing masks)
- Testing
- Contact tracing
- Isolation
- Treatments (including vaccines)



The Importance of Data for each Weapon

- How can we know if social distancing is working, when it can be relaxed?
- How do we know the real number of infected individuals, and how to contact trace, or who to isolate or treat if we do not have accurate and timely test results and diagnoses?
- To protect health care providers, it is vitally important to know if someone who walks into their clinic has ever tested positive for COVID-19 at the emergency room, a local hospital, or even at a drive through testing site.

You might also be surprised to hear that the data collected for all the public health statistics, like lab results, are not shared with all the patient's doctors or sent to the health information exchange



Our work with Southern Nevada Health District

- Built a unidirectional connection from HealthIE Nevada to the SNHD communicable disease surveillance and outbreak management system (Trisano).
- Developed a bi-directional connection between SNHD EHR, eClinicalWorks (for clinical services), and HealthIE Nevada HIE. By exchanging ADT messages and electronic case reports (eCR), these connections enhanced SNHD capacities for disease surveillance and improved care coordination and quality of care for Medicaid recipients.
- When COVID-19 outbreak struck, a mechanism to specifically monitor hospitalization of COVID-19 cases went into effect on March 24 and since going live over 500 inpatient alerts on 245 unique patients have been sent. The alerts by HealthIE Nevada have provided SNHD an additional way for hospitalization tracking as we monitor the COVID-19 pandemic in Clark County.



The Uses of Data in the Pandemic

- Data for Testing, Diagnosis and Treatment
 - Interoperability provided between EHRs, by the patient or through a local HIE
- Data for Public Health Reporting
 - Data reporting required by most states to the state or local public health agency but reporting to the CDC is *voluntary*
- Data for managing herd immunity
 - The state immunization registry houses information on those individuals who have been administered the vaccine but does not have antibody testing results

The networks for sharing these data are either non-existent, work poorly or are underfunded and there is very limited interoperability between them. *This must be changed.*



The Solution

- A statewide health data utility (HDU) managed by a public-private partnership with state oversight but not management
- Mandatory reporting for all providers and diagnostic centers to the HDU
 - The HDU would then provide this data for test results reporting for both treatment, population health and public health
- Develop an Immunity Passport app for determining herd immunity and assisting with contact tracing



Mandatory Reporting

- Reporting of public health data is mandatory in nearly all states including Nevada
- But reporting to the HIE is not mandatory except for a few states which exacerbates the silos of information
 - Reporting to the HIE is mandatory in Connecticut, Maryland and North Carolina
- Recent changes from the final rules of the 21st Century Cures Act will begin to require reporting
 - As a Condition of Participation in Medicare, hospitals will be required to send admissions, discharges and transfers (ADTs) to PCPs and Nursing Homes next May
 - Reporting of electronic patient summaries when requested by the patient will also be required



Questions and Discussion

