

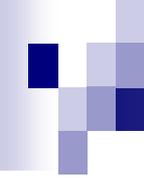
# Deploying a Health Information Exchange for Alaskans



Paul Sherry, President  
Alaska eHealth Network  
April 2009

# **From Paper to Electronic**

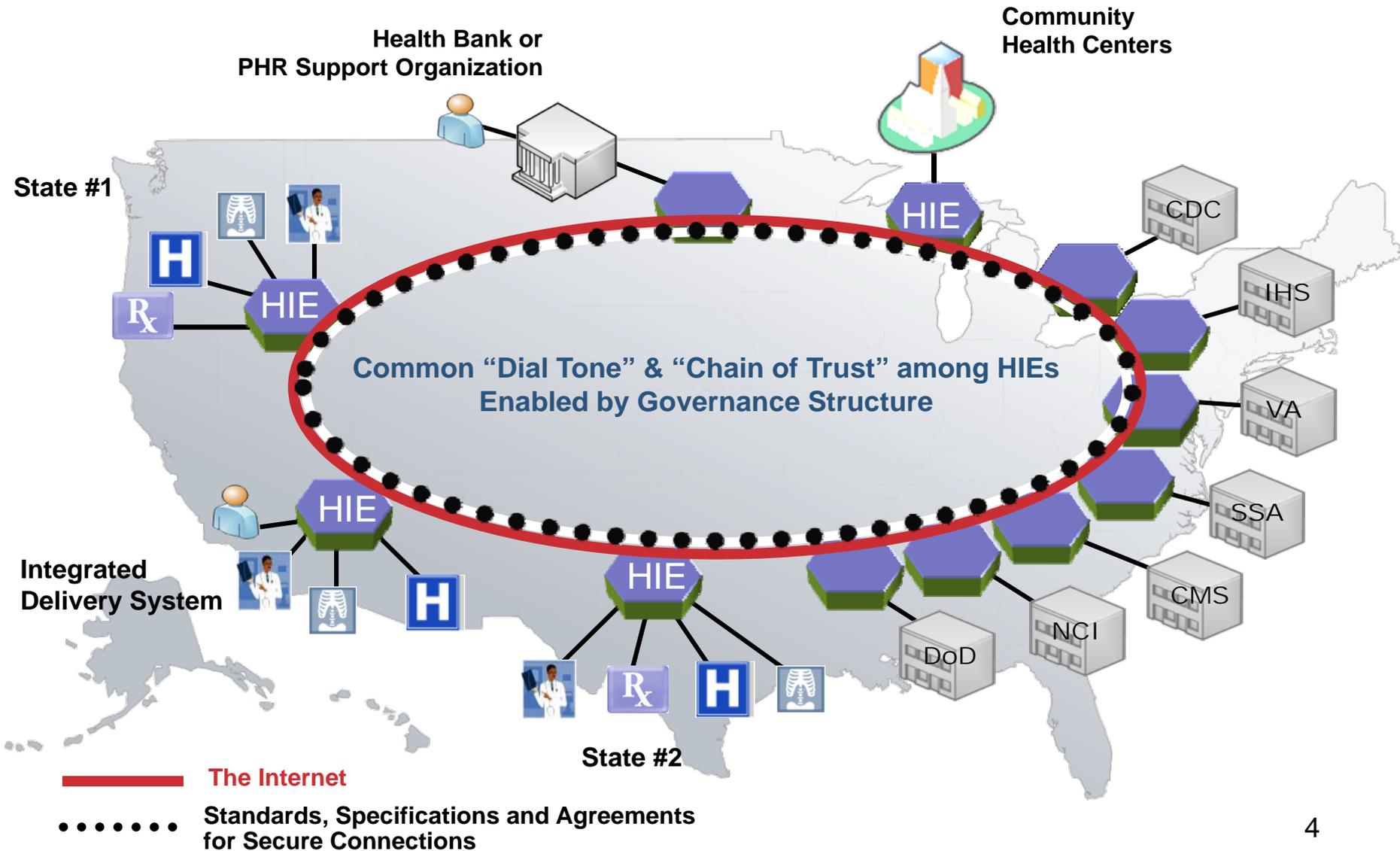
- Alaska's health care providers are now making major investments (\$100M+) in moving from paper records to **Electronic Health Records (EHR)**
- Alaska's health care providers are aligned in support of creating a statewide **Health Information Exchange (HIE)** network so patient records may be securely exchanged between providers for timely and safe patient care
- State of Alaska plays a **key role as a partner** in Alaska's developing Health Information Exchange

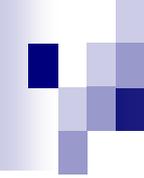


# **Health Information Exchanges**

- Statewide and regional health information exchanges have developed over the last 10 years in other states
- “National Health Information Network” concept created in Bush administration and enhanced in Obama administration through ARRA 2009 stimulus
- Successful State Models:
  - DHIN - Delaware Health Information Network
  - CalRHIO – California, Los Angeles County
  - FHIN – Florida Health Information Network
  - Regenstrief – Indiana Eight County Network

# NHIN “Network of Networks”





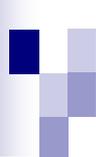
# **Health Information Exchanges**

- Provide rapid access by authorized providers to critical patient information at the point of care
  - medical history
  - medication status
  - immunization status
  - allergies
  - laboratory reports
  - imaging reports
- Reduce redundancy in medical testing and procedures
- Improve patient safety through reducing medication reconciliation errors
- Reduce provider administrative costs for data management



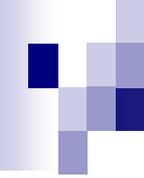
# **Health Information Exchanges**

- Do not require centralized patient health record repositories: health providers continue to own their records
- Facilitate connectivity with patient's Personal Health Records
- Respect patient decisions to opt-out of network participation
- Provide significant penalties for data breaches



# **Health Information Exchanges**

- Federal and private research projects projects 5% savings in annual U.S. health care expenditures from full deployment of inter-operable electronic medical records
- For Alaska's \$5B health care industry, annual savings could reach \$250M.
- For the State of Alaska's \$250M GF Medicaid expenditures, annual savings could reach \$10M



# **Alaska eHealth Network**

- **5 year \$35 million project** to deploy a secure network supporting the exchange of electronic health records between all Alaska health care providers
- **\$12.0 million currently awarded** through 2008 from Federal Communications Commission (\$10.5M), US Dept. of Health and Human Services (\$600K), State of Alaska (\$500K), Alaska Federal Health Care Partnership (\$500K)



## *Alaska e-Health Network*

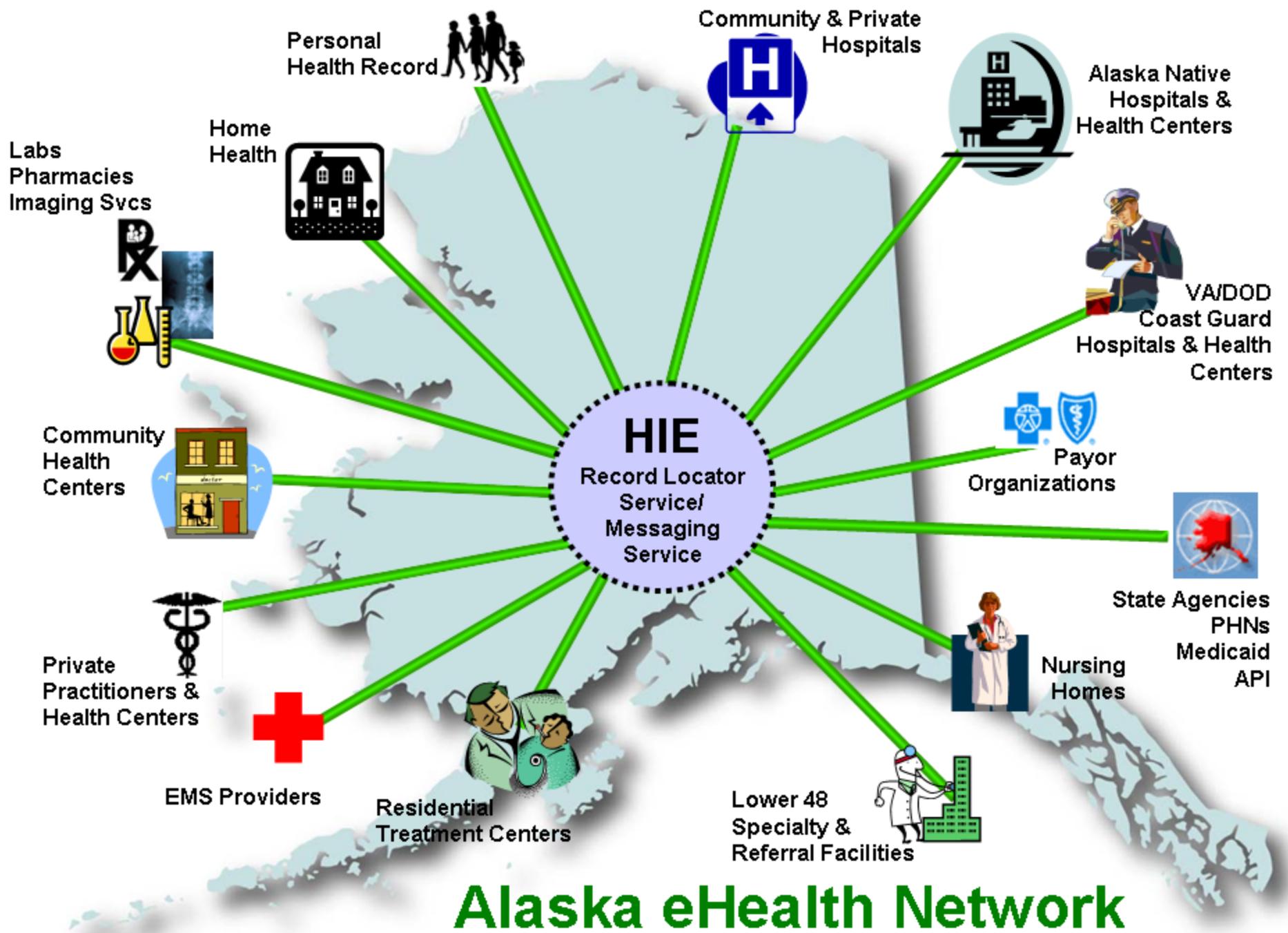
New funding (pending)

\$1.4M from HRSA through ANTHC (FY09)

\$2.7M from State of Alaska/SB133 (FY10)

Stimulus funding for Alaska (projected)

\$20-25M     ARRA HITECH (FY09/10/11)



# Alaska eHealth Network



# **Alaska eHealth Network**

- Incorporated non-profit August 2008
- Partners:
  - Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (designated lead partner)
  - Alaska State Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association
  - Alaska Primary Care Association
  - Premera Blue Cross/Blue Shield
  - State of Alaska DHSS
  - Alaska Federal Health Care Partnership (DOD, VA, USCG, Indian Health Service)
  - University of Alaska
  - Alaska E.H.R. Alliance (private physicians)
  - American Association of Retired Persons



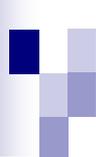
# *Alaska eHealth Network* *Board of Directors*

- **Alex Spector**, VA, AFHCP
- **Jeff Davis**, Premera
- **Garth Hamblin**, BRH
- **Jay Butler**, DHSS
- **Jerome List**, Private Physician
- **Joel Gilbertson**, PAHCS
- **Marilyn Walsh-Kasmar**, APCA
- **Pat Luby**, AARP
- **Paul Sherry**, ANTHC
- **Rod Betit**, President, ASHNA
- **Tom Nighswander**, Physician, WWAMI



## **Progress to Date: 2007-2008**

- Alaska participation in determining national privacy standards and technology interoperability standards
- Contract for technical network design awarded to GCI; determining requirements for needed broadband connectivity for Alaska health providers by August 2009
- FCC grant funding is now available for health provider network technology acquisitions in 2009 and 2010
- Partnership with Alaska EHR Alliance to survey private providers and identify preferred EHR systems
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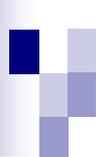


## **Next Steps: 2009-2010**

- Complete network design and assist providers with connectivity
- Secure AeHN designation as Alaska's qualified Health Information Exchange organization
- Secure \$20M+ in federal ARRA funding to acquire Health Information Exchange software

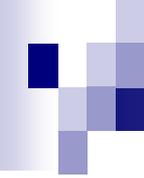
# **Next Steps: 2009-2010**

- Engage contractor/vendor(s) to deploy Health Information Exchange “bridging” software to interconnect Alaska’s various Electronic Medical Records (RFI currently released: replies June 2009)
- Develop patient record locator, messaging service, e-prescribing capacity
- Add Internet2 connectivity for telemedicine applications, teleconferencing, voice-over-internet, and consults from lower-48 academic/teaching hospitals
- Develop Personal Health Record capabilities



## **Next Steps: 2009-2010**

- Establish the Alaska eHeath Network business structure to sustain network and software services through provider and payor contributions
- Total recurring AeHN costs: \$5 million annually
- Estimated state's share of recurring cost at \$1 million
- Other payors: tribal health organizations, federal health agencies (VA, USCG, DOD), insurers, community health centers, private providers and institutions, FCC



# **SB133 Facilitates HIE development**

- Positions Alaska for substantial stimulus funding
- Demonstrates state commitment to support and participate in Alaska's Health Information Exchange development
- Provides for DHSS oversight, engagement, and long-term participation plan
- Provides framework for designation of a qualified state Health Information Exchange entity
- Ensures privacy protections