Strategy 9) Use HIT to advance population health

Background

Health Information Technology (health IT) can provide powerful tools to improve individual patient care, including opportunities to help ensure reliable availability and exchange of information between health care providers and coordination of care. These tools also can help empower individual patients. But the benefits of adoption of health IT go beyond individual patient care. Exchange and analysis of data collected using health IT tools with public health partners could enhance Oregon's ability to understand the health status of its population, develop policies to improve population health, monitor prevention initiatives, send alerts , and evaluate the impact of policy and prevention initiatives on the health of Oregon's population. These activities can help support achievement of the triple aim goal to improve population health .

To realize the benefits of these tools, Oregon should develop a prioritized list of specific and actionable opportunities for health IT to advance population health in Oregon. Input from experts at the Centers for Disease Control, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), academia, and community-initiated efforts such as the ONC Standards and Interoperability Framework Public Health Reporting Initiative should be drawn upon for development of this list. Prioritization would be based on the potential magnitude of impact on population health; feasibility of implementation; opportunities to increase efficiency and coordination of the public health system; and alignment with the Public Health Division's strategic plan, the Oregon Health Policy Board's Action Plan for Health and the Meaningful Use criteria promulgated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and ONC.

In carrying out all of the strategies identified in Oregon's Strategic Plan for Health IT, population health opportunities should be incorporated into health IT planning. Priority population health –related activities should be woven through the other strategies described in this plan as appropriate. This information would be useful for HITOC and for policymakers to consider as health IT planning is undertaken.

The primary strategic actions are to: Develop a prioritized list of specific and actionable opportunities for health IT to advance population health in Oregon and a strategy for incorporating those opportunities in health IT planning.

Milestones

- Convene a HITOC workgroup on population health to identify health IT opportunities to advance population health.
- Develop a prioritized list of specific and actionable opportunities for health information technology to advance population health in Oregon.
- Develop a plan to set measurable goals to incorporate population health priorities into HITOC's work and strategies for health IT.

- Identify and describe improvements in population health that can be enhanced through health IT policy and planning guidance.
- Identity and describe improvements in the state's public health infrastructure that can be enhanced through health IT policies and planning.

Action Steps

- Recruit members for HITOC workgroup on population health.
- Convene workgroup and consult with CDC, ONC, and academia to identify a list of specific and actionable opportunities for health information technology to advance population health in Oregon.
- Draft a prioritized list of these opportunities for presentation to HITOC leadership for consideration.
- Convene workgroup and HITOC leadership to develop a strategy for incorporation of the prioritized list into HITOC's health information technology planning efforts.
- Draft a report that weaves the priority opportunities among the other strategies outlined in Oregon's Strategic Plan for Health Information Technology.
- Present the report to HITOC for consideration and adoption.
- Present the report to policy makers to consider as health information technology planning is undertaken.