A Farewell from NYeC CEO Val Grey

Dear Colleagues,

It's hard to believe another year is coming to an end. The holiday season is upon us, and we are all looking forward to spending quality time, safely, with family and friends. Personally, I have so much to be grateful for as I reflect on my tenure at the helm of the New York eHealth Collaborative. In the last five years, we have made so much progress and the Statewide Health Information Network for New York (SHIN-NY) is stronger than ever!

Participation in the SHIN-NY has increased significantly (beyond traditional Meaningful Use providers), our network has been leveraged to provide support during this unprecedented pandemic, data quality has improved, network policies and technology have been modernized, and security enhanced.

But to me, what has been most important is the difference we have made in people's lives and our communities. Hearing those stories and translating the impact is so powerful, and I urge you view our SHIN-NY Spotlight videos to learn more about how the network is used every day to improve the health of New Yorkers.

This work has always been a team sport. I send my heartfelt thanks to the amazing staff at NYeC, regional health information exchanges, the Governor's Office and the State Legislature, Department of Health, NYeC Board of Directors, health providers, health plans, community-based organizations, statewide associations, and all stakeholders and partners. Your ongoing collaboration and support has been invaluable!

Farewell. The future is bright, and I am confident our paths will cross again!

Take care and all the best,

Valerie Grey

The New York eHealth Collaborative is currently undertaking a national search for CEO Val Grey's successor. In the interim, Co-CEOs **Alison Bianchi**, General Counsel & Special Advisor, and **Donald Juron**, Chief Operating Officer, will be leading NYeC in partnership. If you would like to contact Alison Bianchi or Donald Juron, please contact Hope Redden at **hredden@nyehealth.org**.

Highlights From NYeC's Virtual 2021 Gala & Awards

On November 30th, NYeC held its 10th Annual Gala & Awards. This year's event, held virtually, honored three groundbreaking leaders: **Kristin Myers, MPH**, Executive Vice President & CIO, Mt. Sinai Health System, **Herbert Pardes, MD**, Executive Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, and **Wayne Riley, MD**, President, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University.

We are proud to honor such innovative leaders this year and thank them for their contributions to health care in New York State. If you couldn't attend this year's Gala, get caught up with the 2021 Gala & Awards high-light video at the link below to hear from our esteemed honorees, host Cheryl Wills (NY1), and more!

NYeC and the SHIN-NY are grateful for the continued support of our sponsors and attendees. We look forward to continued growth and success in the coming year, and hope to see everyone at the 2022 Gala & Awards.

SEE THE HIGHLIGHTS

SHIN-NY Spotlight: St. Joseph's Health

In the latest SHIN-NY Spotlight video, NYeC met with St. Joseph's Health, a regional non-profit health care system based in Syracuse, NY. St. Joseph's has been an innovative leader in health care since its founding in 1869 and offers primary, specialty and home care. NYeC also heard from Central New York Accountable, Integrated Medicine (CNY AIM), a "physician-led, patient-centered, clinically integrated delivery system" which partners with St. Joseph's Health.

Access to the SHIN-NY through HealtheConnections enhances St Joseph's Health's ability to provide their patients efficient, quality care, which reinforces their goal to promote "optimal, long term health" for their patients. Listen as Mike Endries, Executive Director, Programs and Operations, CNY AIM, Paul Fiacco, MD, President, CNY AIM, and Kristen Richardson, Director Community Engagement, Community Health and Wellbeing, St. Joseph's Health, as they talk about the importance of their SHIN-NY connection for their staff and patients every day.

Watch the video at the button below.

WATCH THE VIDEO

Hixny: Now is the Time to Document Social Determinants of Health

Earlier this year, Hixny's Manager of Programs and Outreach, Ruth Ann Craven, shared her thoughts on social determinants of health. She asked and addressed the question, "How can we work together to overcome the impacts of social and physical environments—especially right now when access to care is crucial not just for individuals, but for public health?".

Read the full blog post at the link below.

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Bronx RHIO Implements Geocoding for Address Data

Bronx RHIO recently integrated a geocoding tool which normalizes addresses, conforms addresses to the USPS standard, and determines the exact latitude and longitude of an address. This technology provides more accurate addresses to Bronx RHIO's master patient index by resolving spelling or formatting discrepancies, which results in improved patient matching. Because the patient address is such a vital component of Bronx RHIO's algorithm to match patient records from different organizations, automated address normalization speeds up the matching process and improves the accuracy of patient records available to users.

Patient address data is also an important aspect of the analytics and research services that Bronx RHIO offers. With standardized addresses, Bronx RHIO can more accurately determine when a patient's address is that of a shelter for unhoused people, an important factor of the social determinants of health.

Additionally, determining latitude and longitude allows for Bronx RHIO data to be merged with data from other sources that utilize geographic districts beyond zip codes, such as census, city, and state datasets related to economics, environment, education, political districts, etc. Members will soon be able to merge external data sets with Bronx RHIO data to see population-level trends or support their approved research projects.

HealtheConnections and Bronx RHIO Partner to Improve the Collection and Exchange of Race, Ethnicity and SDoH Data

HealtheConnections is pleased to announce their continued collaboration with the Bronx RHIO to lead a community-based approach to improve the collection and exchange of race, ethnicity, and Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) data. This project will also involve a partnership with the Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS) and The Institute for Family Health (IFH), one of the largest community health centers in New York State.

Health disparities along racial and ethnic lines are well documented and observed in most health-related measures. While race and ethnicity are required data points across various standards, including USCDI, PCMH, and DFF, ensuring the quality of these data is not always prioritized. Many participant healthcare organizations lack complete, consistent, and reliable data on the race and ethnicity of their patients and the underlying non-medical factors that may influence their health status. Without these data, they cannot accurately quantify where specific health disparities exist, and consequently, cannot design targeted interventions to help address the inequities.

The project aims to improve data capture at the clinical source and establish a FHIR-based SHIN-NY standard for exchanging complete and reliable race, ethnicity, and SDoH data across QEs.

HEALTHeLINK Again Achieves NCQA Data Aggregator Validation Status

HEALTHeLINK has achieved National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Data Aggregator Validation status for the second year in a row. This is another opportunity for HEALTHeLINK to bring value to its participating health plans and providers by leveraging HIE to simplify and streamline data acquisition needed for HEDIS® reporting. With this status, HEALTHeLINK can share validated sources for standard supplemental data for use in measurement year 2021 HEDIS® reporting. HEALTHeLINK included 269 provider organizations in the NCQA validation, of which 251 have been certified and approved as standard supplemental data — a 93% passing rate.

Last year, HEALTHeLINK was one of three New York State HIEs that completed a pilot program with NCQA for the Data Aggregator Validation program and were the first in the country to receive validation.

Rochester RHIO:
Health Data Equity Project Impacts Finger Lakes Region

Started in Spring 2021, the Health Data Equity Project, funded by Greater Rochester Health Foundation, will improve the quality and completeness of demographic data collected and shared in electronic health record systems across the region. With a focus on accurate race, ethnicity and gender data, inequities can be better spotted and addressed.

Spanning two years, the project is developing best practice guidelines for data collection, normalization, and analysis through Rochester RHIO systems. Among several anticipated improvements, residents will be able to self-identify beyond one race or ethnicity category, as well as benefitting from a standard that better accommodates data for those who identity as non-binary or non-conforming.

"Having a complete and inclusive patient identity helps deliver better point of care treatment to individuals, while at the same time enhancing population health-related community initiatives, reporting, research and evaluation," said Sara Abrams, the RHIO's project co-lead.

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Healthix: Big Focus on Small Data = Big Impact for HIEs

HIEs are improving the quality of their data to further increase their value. Higher quality data means they can help healthcare organizations understand their region more clearly, allowing them to allocate their resources in the areas that need it. Key to achieving this, is translating the data from the various standards used by HIE participants.

When the State HIE program was created as part of the **American Reinvestment and Recovery Act** (ARRA), the goal was to enable the timely sharing of health information to improve care quality, efficiency and safety. The data collected by HIEs was meant to enable more effective public health programs, power clinical research, and give providers more comprehensive clinical information for use in treating patients.

"What we do is aggregate clinical data from hospitals, behavioral health organizations, nursing homes, federally qualified health centers, and even community-based organizations," explained Todd Rogow, President and CEO at Healthix — one of the largest public HIE in the US, serving New York City and Long Island — who sat down with Healthcare IT Today. "It is a diverse set of data sources that we have grown over the years."

READ MORE & WATCH THE VIDEO

EP2 Program

Congratulations to All NY Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Participants

Since the NY Medicaid EHR Incentive Program began 10 years ago, an impressive **19,000 eligible providers** participated in the program. Over **48,000 Meaningful Use attestations** were submitted throughout the program's tenure, resulting in more than **$1,045,550,000** in incentive payments to providers. Congratulations!

Participating in the NY Medicaid EHR Incentive Program has set the foundation for continued success in more advanced Quality Improvement Programs. Over the past 10 years, participants have gained experience with Certified EHR Technology, creating workflows for Meaningful Use and clinical quality measures, building dashboards, monitoring performance, gathering information for annual attestations, preparing for audits, and keeping track of changes to programs as they evolve. Much of the work that has been done to achieve Meaningful Use is very relevant to other programs and as the Program concludes, we encourage participants to leverage the skills that they have developed to move forward in their Quality Improvement activities.

Please visit the **EP2 landing page** or contact **ep2info@nyehealth.org** for post program resources to support your efforts.

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