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# “Building an E-Health Coalition in the Los Angeles Region”

## *eClinic: Building Capacity for Technology & Quality*

January 18, 2006

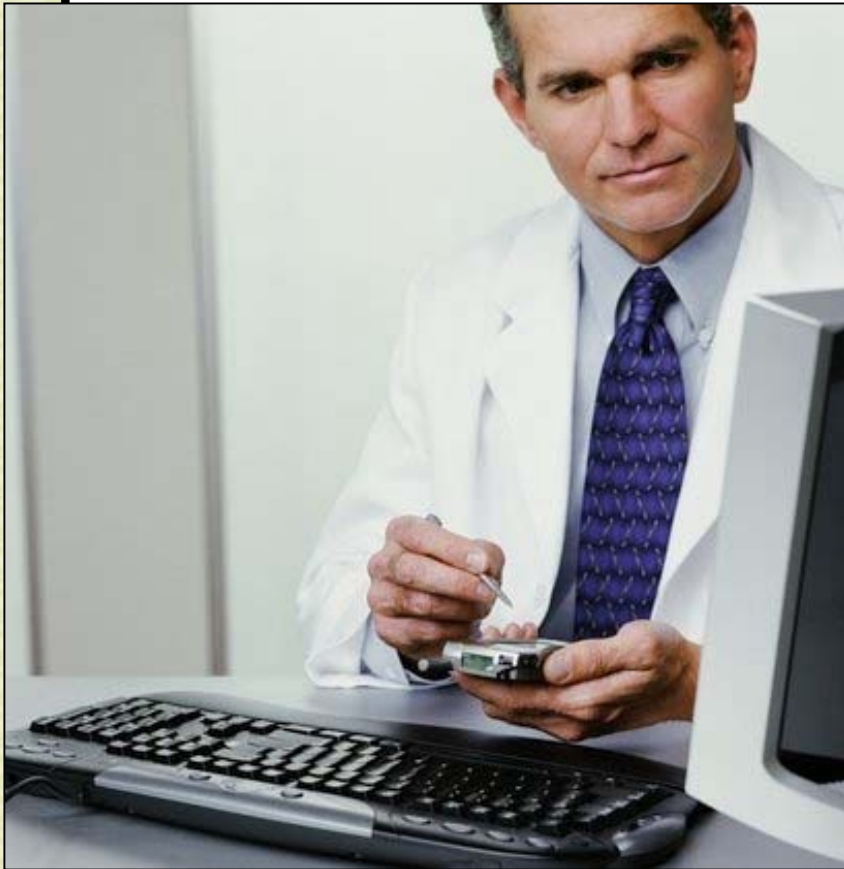
Los Angeles, CA



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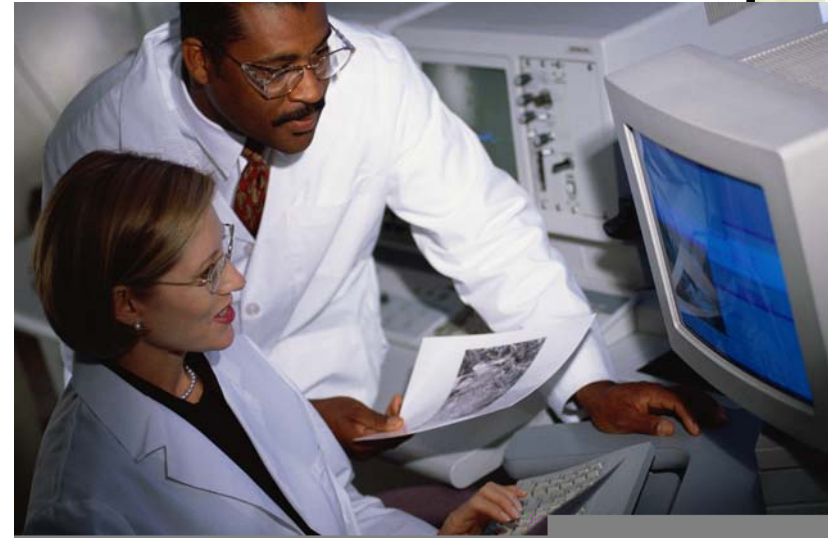


## Outline



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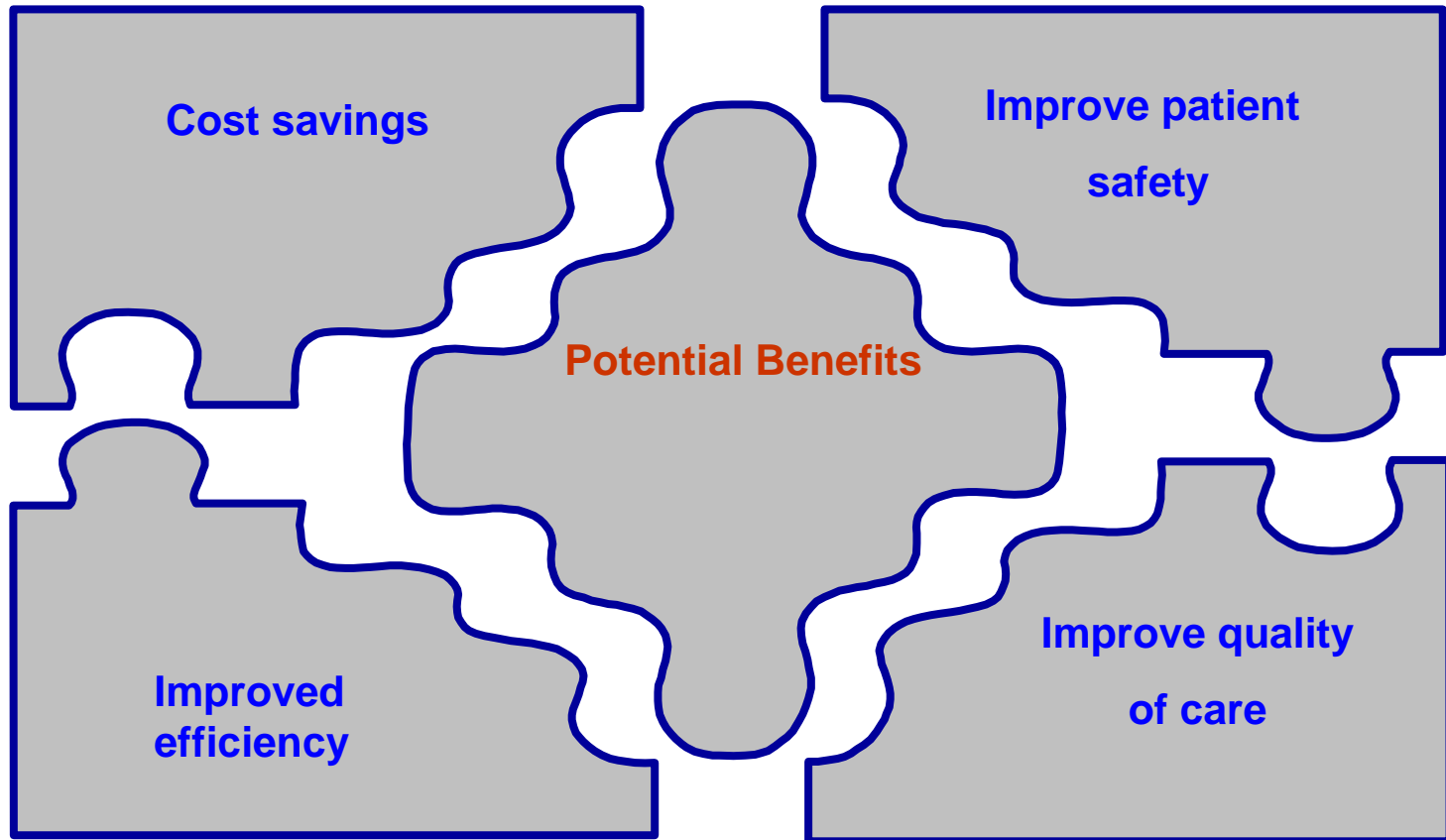


## Why E-Health Matters

*“Our healthcare system is even further behind technologically than our grocery stores.”*

*-- Tommy Thompson,  
former Secretary of the  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*





## Health-e-LA Coalition

**Health-e-LA** is a growing coalition of healthcare plans and providers, healthcare associations, public agencies, foundations, universities, consumer groups, and researchers dedicated to developing an infrastructure for multi-organizational electronic exchange of clinical healthcare information throughout Los Angeles County.



## Background

- In January 2004, several healthcare leaders began discussions regarding the possibility of developing an infrastructure for the electronic exchange of clinical healthcare information among major organizations in the Los Angeles area.
- It soon became clear that: (1) considerable focus and resources would be needed to pursue effective regional planning efforts for multi-organizational electronic exchange of healthcare information; and (2) such efforts were already underway in several other metropolitan areas that could be monitored, evaluated, and potentially leveraged.
- What emerged from these early discussions is now known as the **Health-e-LA Coalition**.



## Mission

The mission of **Health-e-LA** is to foster the development of an infrastructure for multi-organizational electronic exchange of clinical healthcare information throughout the greater Los Angeles region.

Since Los Angeles is the epicenter of the nation's uninsured crisis, with over 2 million people lacking health coverage, **Health-e-LA** will pay particular attention to the needs of public and private safety net providers and others who serve low-income, vulnerable populations.



## Vision

The vision of **Health-e-LA** is a future in which the electronic exchange of patient-controlled health records for residents of the Los Angeles region is seamless, easy, and secure, no matter where the person accesses healthcare.



## Cooperative Principles

- An inclusionary approach, with continued expansion of the Coalition as a regional effort involving public and private sector participants, toward a common goal of interoperability of electronic healthcare information throughout Los Angeles County.
- Active participation in discussions regarding the development and design of a regional electronic “superhighway” for patient-controlled medical records.
- Consistent and incremental progress toward short term and long term goals.
- Development and protection of key work product.



## Short & Long Term Goals

- To research structural and technical topics relating to multi-organizational electronic exchange of healthcare information, and to monitor and evaluate similar activities taking place in other regions of the country.
- To continue to expand support for coordinated e-health activities throughout the greater Los Angeles region, especially in support of public and private safety net providers.

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*(Short & Long Term Goals, continued)*

- To develop the principles and governance for a regional electronic “superhighway” for healthcare information (including collaborative pilot projects toward building the “system”).
- Within a few years, to implement the “superhighway,” thereby enabling the electronic exchange of patient-controlled, longitudinal health records for residents of the greater Los Angeles area.



## Coalition Members as of January 2006

- AARP
- California Association of Physician Groups
- Cedars-Sinai Health System
- Childrens Hospital Los Angeles
- Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County
- Cooperative of American Physicians
- First 5 LA Commission
- HIMSS Southern California Chapter
- Hospital Association of Southern California
- Huntington Hospital
- Kaiser Permanente

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*(Coalition Members, continued)*

- L.A. Care Health Plan
- L.A. Health Action/The California Endowment
- Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
- Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
- Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
- Los Angeles County Medical Association
- Memorial Health Services of Long Beach
- Rand Corporation
- The Institute of Community Pharmacy
- UniHealth Foundation
- USC Health Collaborative



## Facilitation Efforts

- In early 2004, co-conveners signed a memorandum of understanding formalizing their respective roles and responsibilities.
- Developed Mission, Vision and Cooperative Principles.
- Formed Workgroups and Task Forces to seek funds, build membership and begin planning efforts.
- Developed website, logo and promotional materials.

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*(Facilitation Efforts, continued)*

- Built relationships among LA area stakeholders, and provided a forum for meeting and discussion.
- Hosted series of educational presentations.
- Evaluated other regional efforts.
- Supported legislation to assist e-prescribing.
- Featured in Southern California Physician Magazine, HealthFax, and in speaker presentations to various groups.



## Funding

- L. A. Care Health Plan
- First 5 L. A. Commission
- Los Angeles County DHS
- Kaiser Permanente Foundation



## Current Status

- Recent strategic planning has led to consensus among stakeholders regarding **Health-e-LA's** likely future role as an incubator/coordinator and community resource for regional e-health efforts.



## Collaboration

- **eHealth Initiative** [www.ehealthinitiative.org](http://www.ehealthinitiative.org)
- **CALRHIO** [www.calrhio.org](http://www.calrhio.org)
- **CMS** [www.hhs.cms.gov](http://www.hhs.cms.gov)
- **HASC** [www.hasc.org](http://www.hasc.org)
- **HIMSS** [www.himss.org](http://www.himss.org)
- **Long Beach Network for Health** [www.ci.long-beach.ca.us/health/](http://www.ci.long-beach.ca.us/health/)
- **ONCHIT** [www.os.dhhs.gov/fedhealtharch/index.html](http://www.os.dhhs.gov/fedhealtharch/index.html)





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