Celebrating 10 Years of Health IT Progress

AzHeC Timeline
Arizona Health IT Roadmap

August 2005 – April 2006

Gubernatorial executive order is issued to develop a roadmap for health information technology (health IT) in Arizona. Hundreds of healthcare stakeholders participate in developing the roadmap, called Arizona Health-e Connection (AzHeC) Roadmap.

Pre-2007

Arizona Health-e Connection Mission Statement

April 4, 2006

"To facilitate the design and implementation of integrated statewide health data information systems that support the information needs of consumers, health plans, policymakers, providers, purchasers, and researchers and that reduce healthcare costs, improve patient safety, and improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare and public health services in Arizona."

Incorporation

January 2007

Taking its name from the state roadmap, Arizona Health-e Connection (AzHeC) is incorporated as an independent, non-profit organization to spearhead statewide health IT efforts.

First Summit & Trade Show

March 2007

AzHeC hosts its 1st annual Summit & Trade Show bringing together healthcare and health IT professionals. In subsequent years, the annual event becomes the largest annual health IT education and networking event in the state of Arizona.

First HIE Development Funding

October 2007

The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) is awarded a Medicaid Transformation Grant, to develop and implement a Web-based Health Information Exchange (HIE) utility that would enable Medicaid providers to access patient data.

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ARRA & HITECH Act Enacted
February 2009
The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, is signed into law on February 17, 2009, to promote the adoption and meaningful use of health IT. This includes funding for the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Programs which significantly expands the adoption and use of EHRs.

Origin of Arizona HIE Organizations
August 2009
Organizations participating in the AHCCCS HIE project form non-profit organization, Arizona Medical Information Exchange (AMIE). At the same time, another Arizona non-profit is formed, the Southern Arizona Health Information Exchange (SAHIE) with participants from Pima, Cochise and Santa Cruz counties.

2008

Harvard Business Review Case Study
January 2008
Harvard Business Review case study publishes a review of the development and implementation of the Arizona Health-e Connection Roadmap, bringing national attention to Arizona health IT efforts.

HIE Standards
April 2008
Arizona’s Government Information Technology Agency (GITA) receives $414,700 HISPC Phase III contract to work on the Adoption of Standards Collaborative, a multi-state collaborative to address HIE standards.

EAzRX E-Prescribing Initiative
May 2008
EAzRx, Arizona’s statewide e-prescribing initiative, is established to foster adoption and utilization of e-prescribing. The initiative includes a $100,000 grant from UnitedHealthcare to partially fund the initiative; a gubernatorial executive order directs state agencies to work with AzHeC on EAzRx.
Arizona Receives Federal Funding for HIE

February 2010

The Arizona Strategic Enterprise Technology agency (ASET) receives $9.3 million under the State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program (SHIECAP) of ONC. The strategic and operational plans of ASET for the SHIECAP grant are approved and implemented.

Regional Extension Center (REC) Grant

April 2010

AzHeC is awarded a $10.8 million grant (later increased to $11.9 million due to an expansion in scope) by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) to develop the Arizona Regional Extension Center (REC) to assist Arizona healthcare providers in adopting electronic health records and achieving Meaningful Use.

Health Information Network of Arizona (HINAz) Formed

July 2010

Due to their similar missions, AMIE and SAHIE form an interlocking agency – Health Information Network of Arizona (HINAz) – to serve Arizona patients statewide.

Meaningful Use Stage 1 Statewide Roadshow

August 2010

Meaningful Use (EHR adoption) seminars educate over 500 healthcare providers and professionals across Arizona.

REC Officially Opens

October 2010

The REC officially opens enrollment to begin assisting Arizona healthcare providers with adoption and optimization of EHRs and achievement of Meaningful Use.

HIE Legislation Enacted

April 2011

Supported by a broad base of community collaboration led in part by AzHeC, the Arizona Legislature passes HB 2620 which removed barriers to HIE, created regulations for health information organizations (HIOs) and reinforced patient privacy related to HIE.
2012

REC Reaches Grant Goal
February 2012
AzHeC’s REC reaches its grant goal of enrolling 1,958 primary care providers.

EPCS-Enabling Legislation Enacted
April 2012
With community support led by AzHeC, the Arizona Legislature passes HB 2369 which modifies health IT law and also legalizes and enables the Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances (EPCS) in Arizona.

E-Prescribing Initiative Launched
December 2012
AzHeC launches the Arizona E-Prescribing Initiative, a grant-funded program aimed at enhancing patient safety and healthcare through an increase in e-prescribing among Arizona providers and pharmacies.

2013

EPCS Education & Outreach Begins
September 2013
AzHeC begins provider and pharmacy education on the legalization of e-prescribing of controlled substances.

Consumer Health IT Campaign
November 2013
AzHeC launches a statewide consumer health IT education and awareness campaign, guided by a Consumer Connections Task Force representing more than 50 healthcare organizations, health plans and non-profit organizations. The campaign includes a website (eHealth4AZ.org) as well as print, online and radio advertising.

Celebrating 10 Years of Health IT Progress
AzHeC & HINAz Announce Formal Affiliation
February 2014
AzHeC and HINAz announce formal affiliation of the two organizations, forming one organization for providers to come to for all of their HIT/HIE needs. The statewide HIE is now referred to as “The Network.”

Health IT Roadmap 2.0 Published
March 2014
Arizona’s Health IT Roadmap 2.0, a follow-up to the first health IT roadmap, is published with input from more than 300 healthcare stakeholders in workshops, a survey and public meetings. Roadmap 2.0 includes 19 actionable initiatives.

HIE Technology Upgrade
May 2014 - April 2015
To upgrade technical capabilities and prepare for the future, AzHeC begins a rapid RFP and selection process for a new HIE technology platform. The new technology platform “goes live” 11 months later, completing a major RFP process, selection and data migration.

Community Provider Fees Eliminated
August 2015
The AzHeC Board votes to eliminate participation fees for community providers in the HIE effective October 1, 2015, to encourage participation and data sharing by community providers.

Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative (TCPi) Grant
September 2015
AzHeC, in partnership with Mercy Care and Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care, is selected by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as one of 39 health care collaborative networks nationally to participate in the TCPi. The grant of potentially $14.6 million over four years launches the Practice Innovation Institute to prepare 2,500 Arizona clinicians to be successful in value-based healthcare.

AzHeC & HINAz Merger Approved
December 2015
The boards of AzHeC & HINAz, along with AzHeC’s Members, approve the merger of HINAz and AzHeC as of January 2016. This merger completes a two year process.

2015

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2014

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Integrated HIE Strategy Approved
February 2016
The AzHeC Board approves a statewide strategy for integrating physical and behavioral health information in one HIE.

100th HIE Participant Joins
March 2016
Bayless Healthcare Group, an integrated community health provider, becomes the 100th participant in the HIE.

Statewide HIE Integration Plan (SHIP) is Launched
April 2016
In collaboration with Arizona’s three regional behavioral health authorities (RBHAs), AzHeC launches a statewide plan, SHIP, to integrate physical and behavioral health into the HIE and to connect the top 100 behavioral health providers.

Successful PCDH Pilot
May 2016
In collaboration with two other HIEs in neighboring states, AzHeC completes the first successful Patient Centered Data Home™ (PCDH) pilot that pioneers a cost-effective, scalable method of exchanging real-time patient data among HIEs. As a result, PCDH is expanded to other pilot projects across the country.

200th HIE Participant Joins
September 2016
The Sun City Fire Department, operated by the Sun City Fire District, becomes the 200th participant and the 3rd first responder organization in the HIE.

AzHeC Hosts & Grows SHIEC Conference
September 2016
AzHeC hosts the 2nd annual conference of the Strategic Health Information Exchange Collaborative in Scottsdale, Arizona. AzHeC is a founding member of this national trade association, and the 2016 conference more than doubles past sponsorship support and participation.