# Institute for e-Health Policy : "Transforming Policy into Practice"

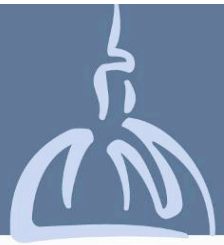
**Presentation to:**

# Internet2

## FCC Rural Health Pilot Participants

**October 16th, 2008**

**Neal Neuberger, Executive Director**

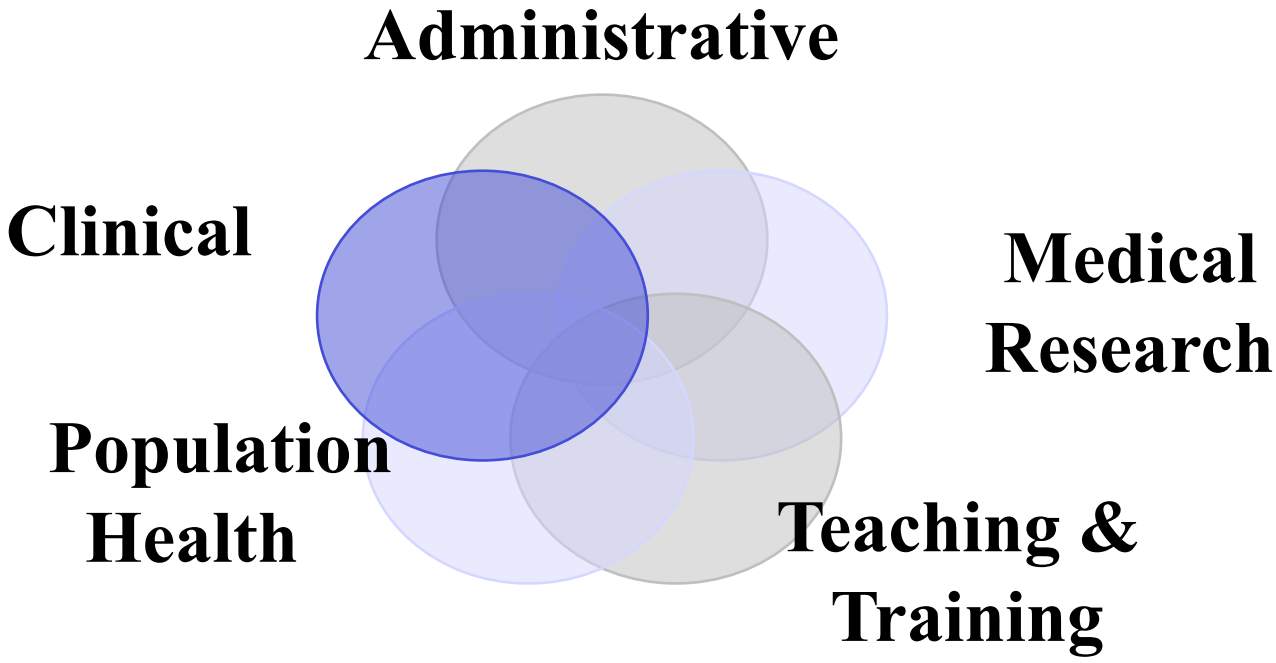


# Education and Research

**Public and Private Sector Stakeholders**

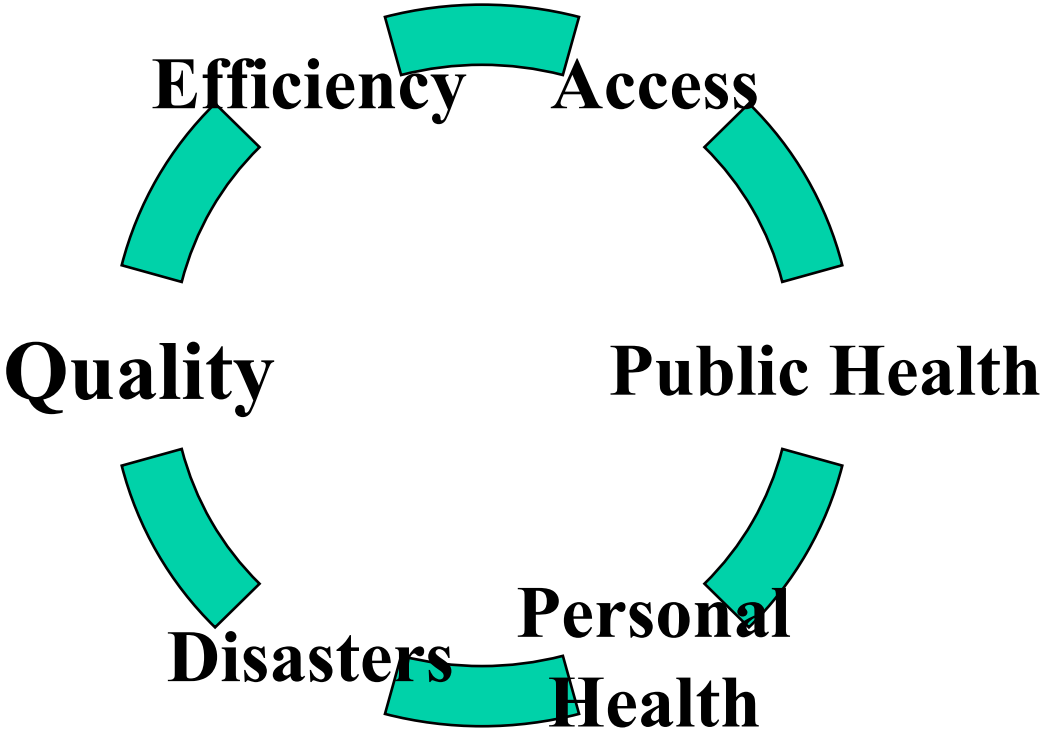
- **Congress**
- **Administration**
- **States**
- **Healthcare Organizations; Coalitions; Foundations**
- **Thought Leaders**

# Applications Information Types

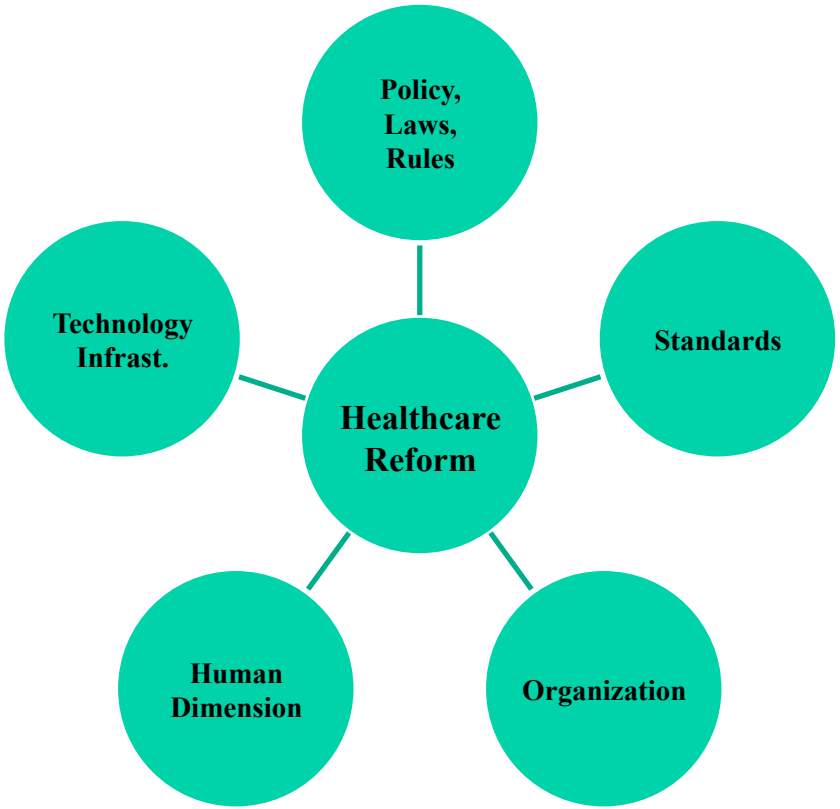


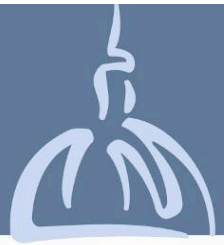
# What Is Driving All The Activity

## Drivers



# Policy Issues To Address





# Numerous Players

- Federal Government
  - Congress
  - Agencies (DHHS, DoC, Ag, DoD, VA, IHS, NASA)
  - Federal Jt. Working Group on Telehealth
- States
  - Statewide Initiatives (Governors, Legislatures, Regional Networks)
  - 100 plus bills specific to HIT
  - NGA State Alliance
- Private Sector
  - Coalitions / Consortia / Organizations (ATA, HIMSS, eHI, AHIMA, AMIA, NAHIT, Health IT Now !Coalition)
  - Capitol Hill Steering Committee on Telehealth and Healthcare Informatics )
  - Standards Groups, CCHIT, HITSP, Promina, Continua
  - Foundations (Markle, RWJ, Commonwealth, eHI Fndt)
- Presidential Election November 4th – New Directions ?

# Senator Obama

# Senator McCain

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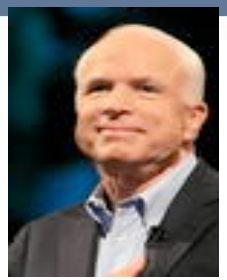


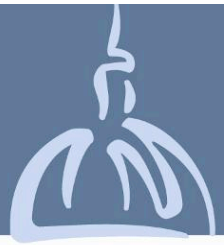
# McCain Vs. Obama

- Provide citizens with choices of different health insurance plans
- Encourage Personal Responsibility
- Tax credit to individuals and families to increase incentive to purchase health insurance
- No mandate for health insurance coverage
- No HIT component yet

- Universal coverage utilizing a mix of private and public modalities
- Quality, affordable and portable coverage for All
- Children required to have insurance, no mandate for adults
- Lower costs by modernizing the U.S. healthcare system
- Up to $10B per year for HIT

# Current HIT Legislation Environment

- No significant action during 110th Congress
- E-prescribing only success story
- Currently tracking **over 100** separate pieces of HIT related legislation
- What to expect during final days of 2nd Session (2008)?
  - S. 1693 (Wired for Health Care Quality Act)
    - Has passed HELP Committee
    - Awaiting full Senate Action; No House Action on companion bill
  - H.R. 6357, PRO(TECH)T Act of 2008
  - H.R. 1467 (10,000 Trained by 2010)
    - Passed House
    - Viewed as education legislation by Senate HELP. No Action to date.
- Track all HIT legislation at the HIMSS Legislative Tracker at: **www.himss.org/advocacy/actioncenter.asp**



# Federal Health Information Technology Policy Issues

- **Reimbursement & Capital Costs**
  - **Aligning Financial Incentives**
  - **Driving Cost-Effectiveness (i.e. Chronic Care & Disease Mgmt)**
  - **Start-up Costs Capital Investment**
  - **Federal Investments (DoD; VHA; IHS; Appropriations for Contracts & Grants)**
- **Standards (Clinical & Communications)**
  - **Quality & Safety**
- **Infrastructure Issues**
  - **Network Infrastructure / Broadband Access / Interoperability (FCC; DoC)**
- **Human Dimension Issues**

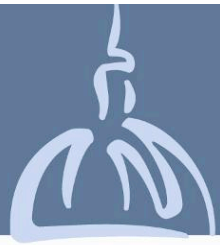
  **- Arrangements to Practice in an e-enabled Environment**

  **- Practitioner and Patient Acceptance**

  **- Licensure, Accreditation, Certification**

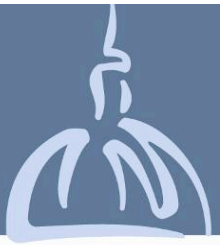
  **- Legal (Stark Law, Liability, FDA, HIPAA & Ongoing Security Concerns)**

  **- Training an HIT Workforce (NSF; BHP)**



# States and HIT Activity

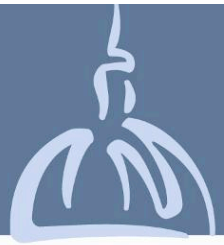
- As conveners, payers, providers, and regulators of healthcare, states are recognizing their role in using HIT to transform healthcare
- States are leveraging **publicly funded health programs** to drive the use of HIT
    - Medicaid
    - Public Health
    - State Employee Health Benefits Programs
- In 2008, **1,000+ pieces of legislation** introduced in 45 state legislatures addressing HIT
- In 2007, 250+ bills introduced in 38 state legislatures and the District of Columbia and 74 Bills passed and became law



# *Put Positively*

- ***"There are no problems……just insurmountable opportunities"***

  – ***An Old American Proverb !***



# Federal Legislative Mechanisms

- Budgets
  - Reconciliation (Medicare & Medicaid Policy)
- Appropriations (DHHS, DoD, DoC, DoA, VA)
- Authorization Measures
  - Health Reform
  - SCHIP
  - Health Professions
  - Telecom Legislation
  - Pay for Performance
  - Farm Bill – HR. 2419 Rural Grants – CHCs

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# Sample Legislation
## 110th Congress

- Rep. David Wu (D-OR) (H.R. 1467)
- $99 .6 M to fund training of HIT Workers thru National Science Foundation
- Colleges, Universities, Voc Tech
- Undergraduate and Graduate Programs
- 10,000 workers by 2010
- Priority of AHIMA and AMIA
- Passed the Full House, June, 2007

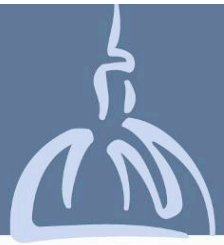
# Some Issues Going Into the 111th Congress

- Belief that all HIT legislation could be "held hostage" by privacy concerns
- Ongoing role of AHIC
- Coordination among federal agencies
- Ongoing meetings with key House and Senate health aides to assess situation for legislation movement
- Supporting efforts of GAO and Congressional Budget Office – Costs ?
- Democrat and Republican Presidential Candidates' Platforms
  - HIT content in both!
- New educational sessions and field trips for congressional staff

# Reauthorization Telecom ?

- **S.101 - "USA Act" (Telecom Amends)**
- **Creates Broadband Program**
- **Revisits definition of Rural**
- **Expands list of eligible entities:**
  - **Not-for profit nursing homes and SNF**
  - **Critical Access Hospitals**
  - **EMS Facilities**
  - **Hospice providers; rural dialysis; Tribal Health Clinics**
  - **Not-for-profit Dental Clinics; School Health Clinics; Residential Treatment Facilities; Rural Pharmacies;**
  - **Consortia of Any of the Above**
  - **Others the Commission May Deem Eligible**

**Source: Library of Congress; USAC**



# Coordination Efforts

## There is Hope !

- House 21st Century Healthcare Caucus
- Senate Health IT Caucus in the Works
- Capitol Hill Steering Committee on Telehealth and Healthcare Informatics
- Healthcare IT Access Network for Rural Underserved Populations
- Joint Working Group on Telehealth
- Industry Standards Group – Continua, CCHIT
- Efforts of eHI, AHIMA, NAHIT, AMIA, AdvaMed, ATA, others

# *Capitol Hill Steering Committee on Telehealth and Healthcare Informatics*
# Luncheon Seminar Series

## Honorary Co-Chairs

- U.S. Senators Conrad, Crapo, Thune, Whitehouse
- U.S. Reps. Boucher, Cantor, English, Gordon, Kennedy, Murphy, Schwartz, Wu
- Since 1993
- More than 120 Lunch Sessions and Technology Demonstrations in 16 Years

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