

# ONC TEFCA

## Recognized Coordinating Entity

### Monthly Informational Call

February 16, 2021



ONC  
TEFCA  
RECOGNIZED  
COORDINATING  
ENTITY

*This project is supported by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under 90AX0026/01-00 Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) Recognized Coordinating Entity (RCE) Cooperative Agreement. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by ONC, HHS or the U.S. Government.*

# Agenda

- Welcome
- RCE Status Update
- TEFCA Development Process
- TEFCA Value Proposition
- Questions & Answers

# Meet the RCE Team



Mariann Yeager  
CEO  
The Sequoia Project



Dave Cassel  
Executive Director,  
Carequality



Stephanie Rizk  
Manager, Health IT Policy  
RTI International

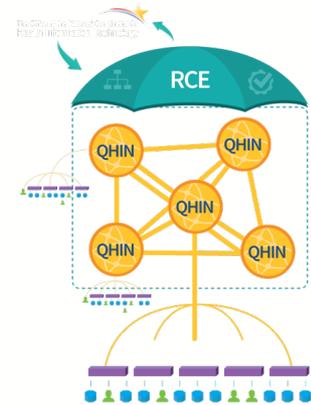


Chantal Worzala  
Principal,  
Alazro Consulting

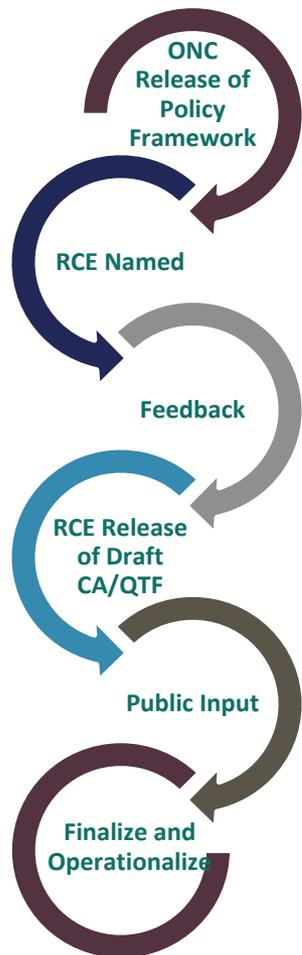
# RCE Update

# Status Update

- Prepare Common Agreement Draft Version 1 for public comment
- Facilitate stakeholder feedback sessions
- Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Define QHIN onboarding and designation process



# TEFCA Development Process

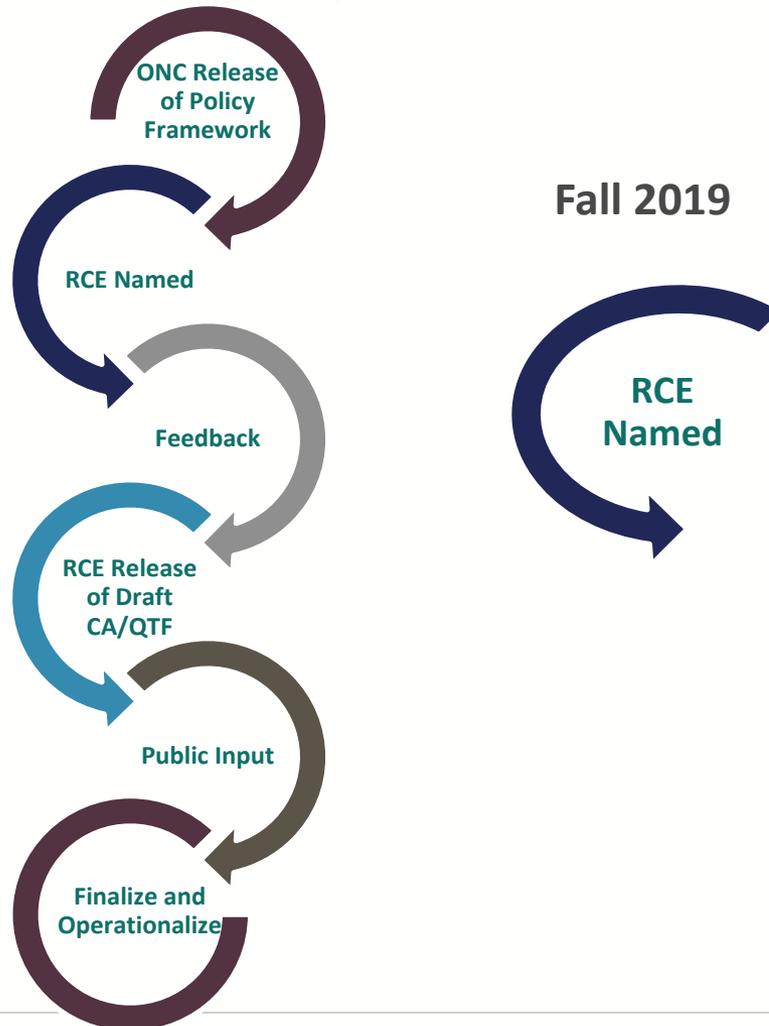


Spring 2019



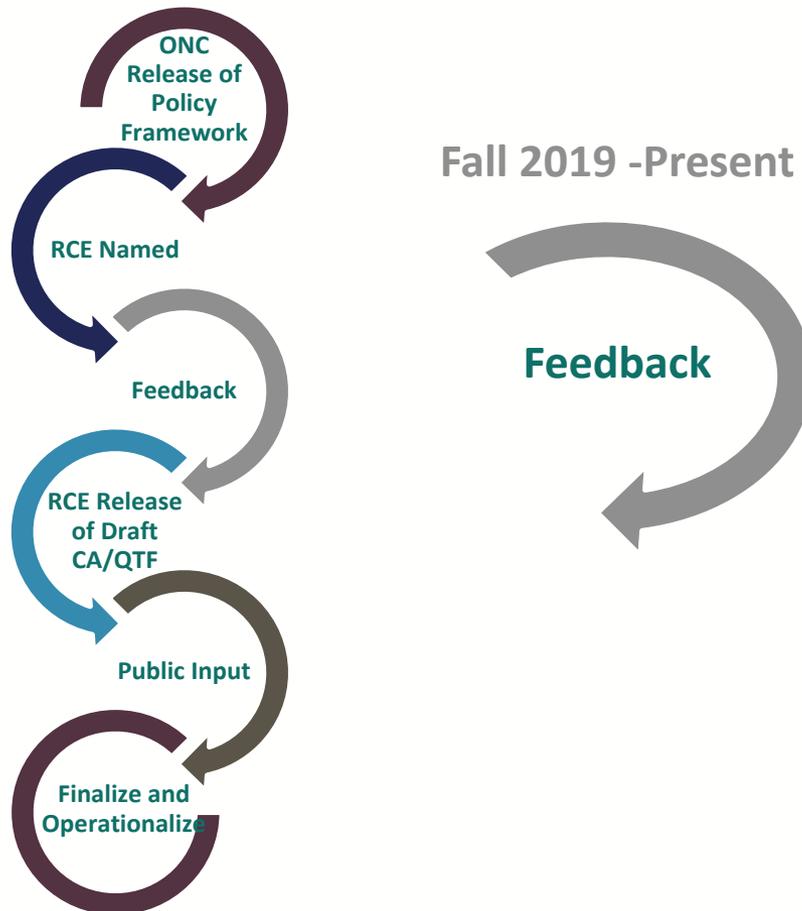
- Congress established a provision for the TEFCA in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act
- ONC provided two opportunities for public input, then released:
  - Trusted Exchange Framework & Minimum Required Terms and Conditions Draft 2
  - QHIN Technical Framework Draft 1

# TEFCA Development Process



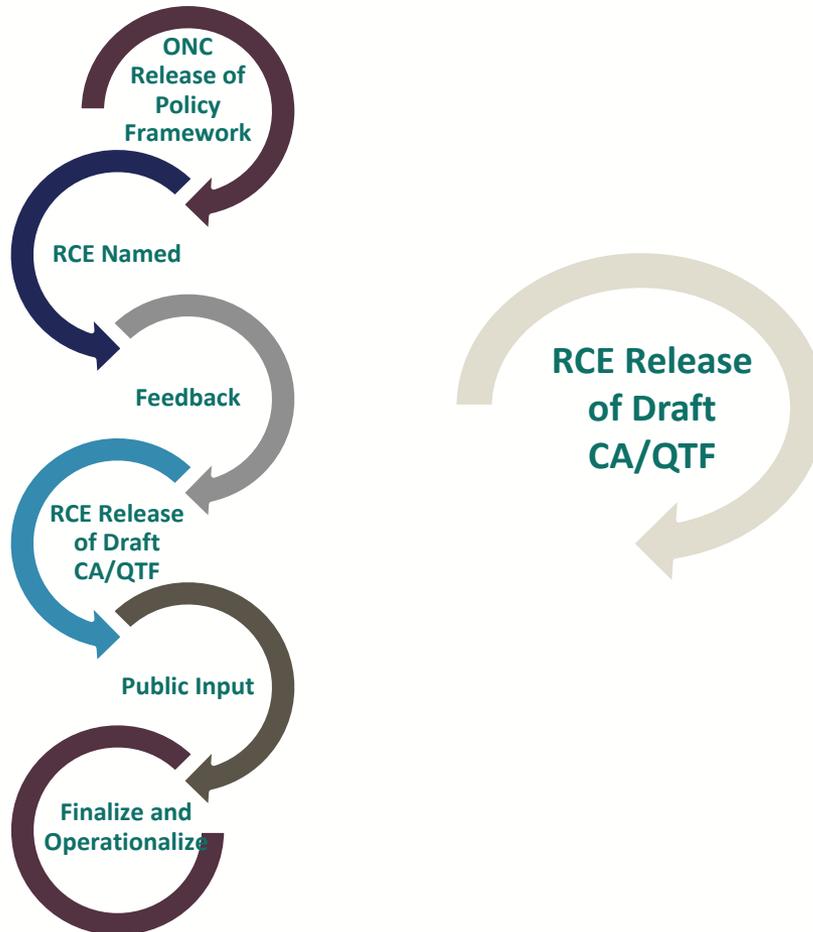
- The Sequoia Project named as the Recognized Coordinating Entity
- Worked collaboratively with ONC to consider public comments to inform work:
  - Refine Minimum Required Terms and Conditions
  - Develop Additional Required Terms and Conditions
  - Identify Standard Operating Procedures
  - Revise QHIN Technical Framework
  - Define Governance

# TEFCA Development Process



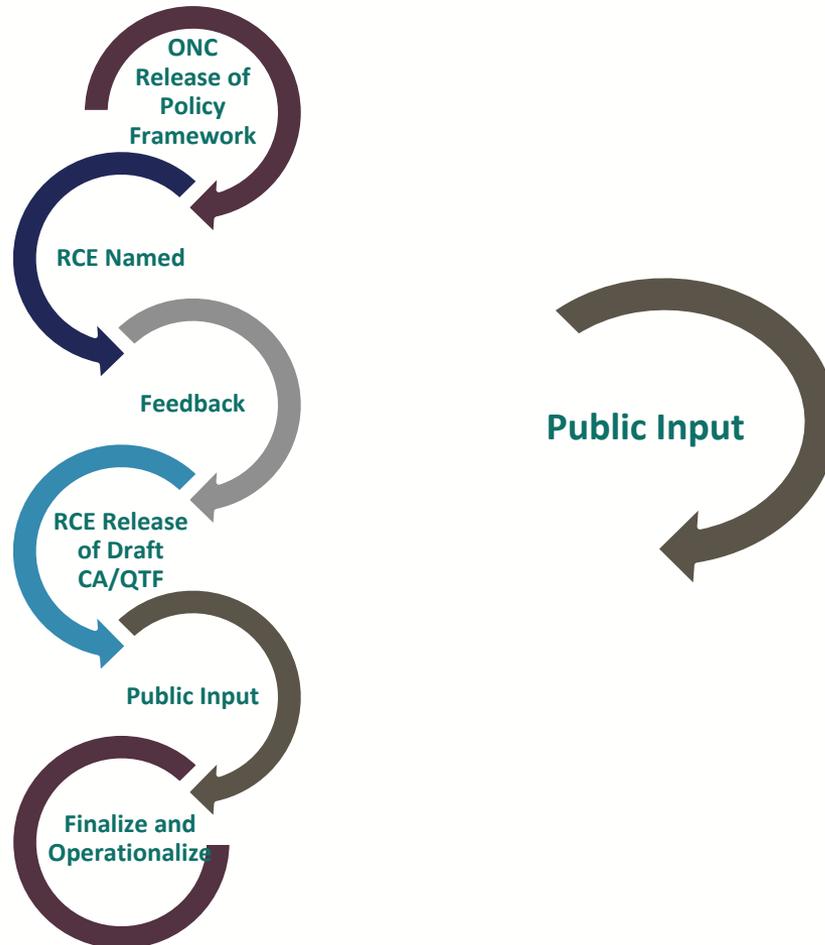
- Presentations at ONC Annual Meeting and other public events
- Targeted Stakeholder Feedback Sessions
- Monthly Public Informational Calls
- Common Agreement Work Group
- Interviews with Subject Matter Experts from various stakeholder perspectives
- Development of Metrics
- Development of QHIN Onboarding and Application Process
- TEFCA Governance Process

# TEFCA Development Process



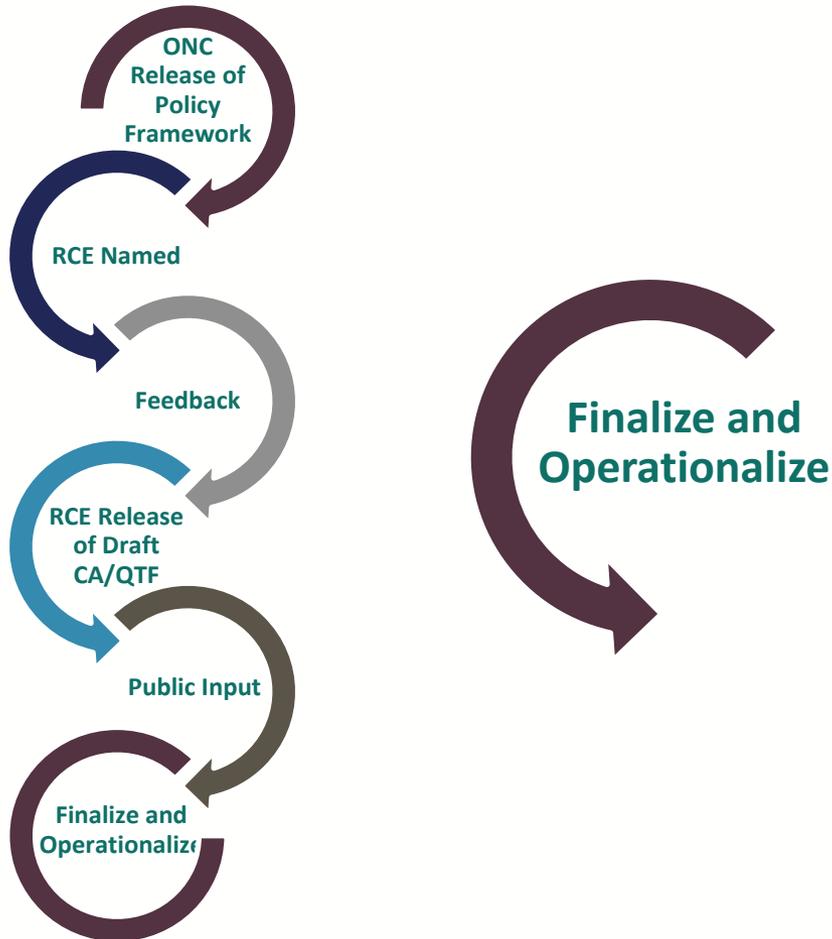
- RCE and ONC finalizing development of documents based on feedback and additional discussion
- ONC review process
- RCE will release:
  - Common Agreement Draft 1
  - QHIN Technical Framework Draft 2
- Submission of metrics to OMB for compliance with Paperwork Reduction Act and release for final comment opportunity

# TEFCA Development Process



- 60-Day Public Comment Period
- Educational awareness and public feedback sessions
  - Common Agreement
  - QHIN Technical Framework
- Continued development of Standard Operating Procedures
- Continued development of QHIN Onboarding and Application Process

# TEFCA Development Process



- ONC and RCE develop final Common Agreement and QHIN Technical Framework based on comment
- Finalize metrics
- Complete and launch QHIN Onboarding and Application Process
- Establish TEFCA Governance Process
- Educate stakeholders

# TEFCA Value Proposition

# TEFCA Value Proposition

- Overall value proposition
  - Nationwide scale
  - Simplified connectivity
  - Standardized approaches to trust frameworks and technical standards
- Implications unique to stakeholder groups
  - ✓ Health information networks
    - Patients and consumers
    - State government and public health – **Coming soon!**
    - Providers – **In discovery**
    - Payers
- Build from stakeholder views
- Discuss what stakeholders can do to prepare



The Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement –

## Benefits for Health Information Networks (HINs)

Together with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), we are building the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) established by the 21st Century Cures Act. Once operational, the TEFCA will facilitate exchange of health information on a nationwide scale, simplify connectivity among networks, and create efficiency by establishing a standardized approach to exchange policies and technical frameworks.

The TEFCA will offer nationwide approach for the exchange of relevant health information to support a range of exchange purposes, such as treatment, payment, quality assessment, benefits determination, consumer access to health information, and public health.

The TEFCA will provide a common set of rules that are federally recognized, greatly reducing the burden health information networks (HINs) currently face when they try to establish connections with entities outside their networks. Consistent policies and technical approaches will increase the overall exchange of health information. The TEFCA will also provide a structure for engaged parties to work together on coordinated, uniform adoption of new technologies and use cases over time.

The ultimate goal of the TEFCA is to enhance provider and consumer access to health information that supports better clinical decision-making, improved outcomes, and lower costs. HINs participating in the TEFCA will play a pivotal role in reaching that goal and will benefit greatly from its achievement.



# Value Proposition for Providers

## Improve care and care coordination

- Access to information from a broader set of providers across the continuum of care
- Access to information from a larger geography
- Support individuals' access to information from across providers
- Easier access to information needed to support value-based care, care management, and population health
  - Managed populations, care management and quality metrics
  - Sharing of information with community institutions to address social influencers of health
  - Access to information to support analytics
- Network-of-networks approach supports more efficient connection across HINs
  - Standardized approach to directory services
  - Standardized approach to patient identification
- Ease burden of public health reporting
  - Less need for one-off connections
  - Bidirectional exchange
  - Message and query
- Infrastructure to support care providers during emergencies



# Provider Considerations

- Limited bandwidth focused on patient care
- Useability within workflow
- Data quality and usefulness
- Individual access to records across care team
- Interaction with other federal, state and local rules





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# Questions & Answers