

# ONC TEFCA

## Recognized Coordinating Entity

### Monthly Informational Call

June 15, 2021



ONC  
TEFCA  
RECOGNIZED  
COORDINATING  
ENTITY

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# Agenda

- Welcome
- RCE Status Update
- QHIN Onboarding
- RCE Metrics Development
- TEFCA Value Proposition
- Questions & Answers

# Meet the RCE Team



Mariann Yeager  
CEO  
The Sequoia Project



Alison Banger  
Senior Manager  
RTI International



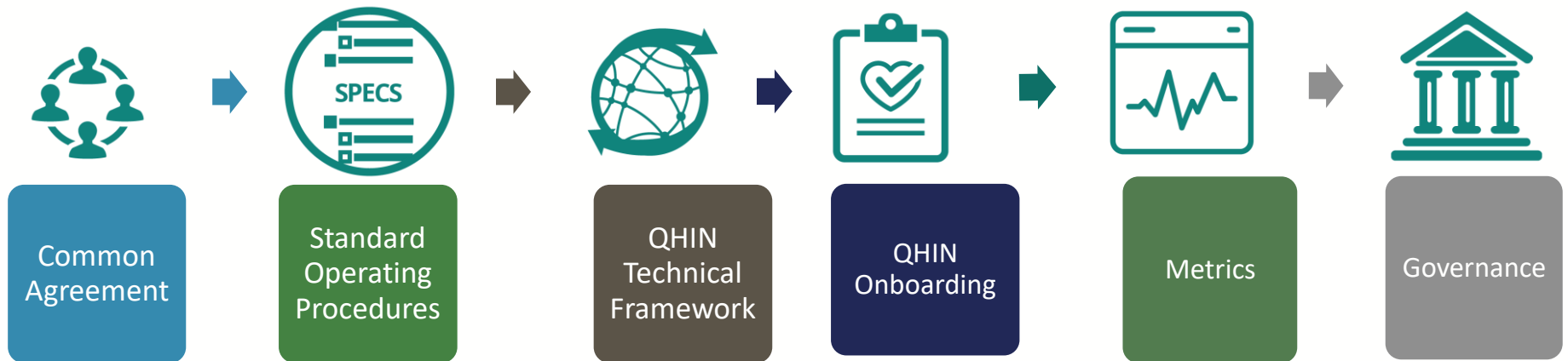
Alan Swenson  
Executive Director,  
Carequality



Chantal Worzala  
Principal,  
Alazro Consulting

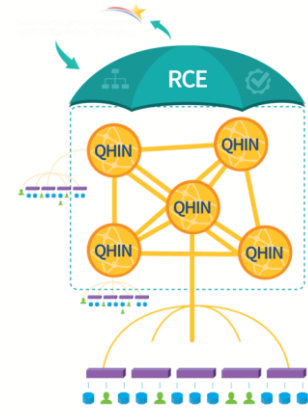
# RCE Update

# TEFCA Elements



# Status Update

- Prepare QHIN and RCE Metrics and facilitate Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) clearance
- Prepare Common Agreement Draft Version 1
- Facilitate stakeholder feedback sessions
- Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Define QHIN onboarding and designation process
- Prepare QHIN Technical Framework Draft Version 2



# QHIN Onboarding

# QHIN Onboarding Elements

- QHIN eligibility criteria
- QHIN application
- Demonstrate compliance
  - Common Agreement
  - QHIN Technical Framework
  - Ability to enforce flow-down obligations to QHIN participants
- NOTE: The method(s) of compliance verification have not yet been determined

# RCE Metrics Development

# Status Update

- **Finalizing draft application for OMB paperwork for metrics approval**
  - Strengthening understanding of variability in burden estimates for both start up and ongoing reporting of metrics
  - Finalizing approach with SOP team to ensure alignment between SOPs and PRA application

## Proposed Year 1 Operational and Process Measures

1: Onboarding status

2: Initial Compliance

3: Ongoing Compliance - Policy

4: Ongoing Compliance - Technical

#5: Ongoing compliance – Network performance

6: Ongoing Compliance – Security

7: Ongoing Compliance – Flow Down Verification

8: Number of “member organizations” affiliated with QHIN

9: Report to RCE number of document deliveries/healthcare organization transaction volume - near term

# 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 – **Coming soon**
    - Payers – **Coming soon**
- 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 Health Plans and Providers

- Provide individuals with access to their information
  - Consolidated view of information
  - Support individual requests for payer-to-payer exchange
- Improve care coordination and case management
- Access information needed for quality reporting and to close care gaps
  - Information from providers
  - Reporting to HEDIS and other platforms
- Support value-based care and population health
  - Support ACOs and other new models
  - Analytics to identify population health needs and disparities
  - Sharing of information with community-based organizations
- Better integrate administrative and clinical data
- Facilitate bi-directional exchange of public health information
  - Immunization status
  - Other public health threats



# Health Plan and Payer Considerations

- Ongoing focus on meeting the requirements of the CMS Interoperability and Patient Access Final Rule
- Lack of clarity on the interaction and timing of the TEFCA with CMS interoperability rule requirements and the emphasis on FHIR-based exchange
- The extent to which TEFCA will focus on exchange of clinical data (as opposed to claims and encounter data)
- Challenges with identity management, authentication, and accurate directories
- Concern that the TEFCA could add a layer on top of existing national exchange
- Uncertainty over how TEFCA may impact community HIEs that some health plans/payers have invested in over the years.
- Need for a defined value proposition to support participation.





# Questions & Answers