

# ONC TEFCA

## Recognized Coordinating Entity

### Monthly Informational Call

April 21, 2020



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
- Common Agreement Work Group Update
- QHIN Technical Framework Update
- Stakeholder Feedback Meeting Recap
- Next Steps
- Questions and Answers

# Meet the RCE Team



Mariann Yeager  
CEO  
The Sequoia Project



Dave Cassel  
Executive Director  
Carequality Inc.



Steve Gravely  
Founder & CEO  
Gravely Group



Chantal Worzala  
Principal, Alazro  
Consulting

# RCE Update

# RCE Progress

## MRTCs

- ONC-RCE language review sessions
- RCE facilitated research for TEFCA Summary of Disclosures
- RCE supported analysis for certain MRTC topics

## ARTCs

- RCE drafted ARTC framework and initial ARTCs
- Public stakeholder feedback meetings
- ONC-RCE review sessions

## QHIN Technical Framework

- RCE scoping discussion with ONC
- Public stakeholder feedback meetings
- Submitted draft QTF to ONC
- ONC-RCE review sessions

## Stakeholder Input

- ONC approved stakeholder engagement strategy and plan
- Public stakeholder feedback meetings
- Monthly informational calls

## Common Agreement Work Group

- ONC approved CAWG proposal
- RCE developed participation criteria, CAWG application and MOU-Confidentiality Agreement
- Call for applications to participate in CAWG



# Common Agreement Work Group Update

# Common Agreement Work Group

- Purpose
  - Inform RCE development of the draft Common Agreement (MRTC/ARTC components)
- Participation
  - 23 organizations represented, including:
    - HINs (national, state and technology-centric)
    - HIN Participants (provider organizations, health plan)
  - Operate under MOU and Confidentiality Agreement
  - Participation is not a guarantee of QHIN status
- Process
  - RCE facilitates discussion for defined topics in bi-weekly meetings
  - Participants share feedback and work towards consensus
  - RCE synthesizes feedback and refines contract language
  - RCE hosts public stakeholder feedback session on key ARTCs
  - RCE prepares Common Agreement Draft Version 1 for submission to ONC
- Additional Opportunities for Input
  - Monthly informational calls
  - ARTC public call
  - Common Agreement Draft Version 1 public comment period



## CAWG Work Plan Schedule – Where We Are

Common Agreement Work Group	Date	Session #	Venue	Topic
	4/1	1	Virtual	Kickoff Meeting
	4/15	2	Virtual	Governance Structure
	4/29	3	Virtual	Governance (cont'd as needed) + Rights of the Individual
	5/13	4	Virtual	QHIN responsibilities (Part 1)
	5/27	5	Virtual	QHIN responsibilities (Part 2)
	6/10	6	Virtual	QHIN liability for non-compliance with requirements
	6/24	7	Virtual	Misc CA terms (select topics only given time constraints)
	7/8	8	Virtual	Review draft CA
	7/22	9	Virtual	Continue review of draft CA

# Topics Addressed Thus Far

- Session 1: 4/1/20
  - Definitions
  - QHIN designation process
- Session 2: 4/15/20
  - Governance models
  - Role of The Sequoia Project's Board of Directors
  - Role of QHINs, Participants, and others

# What's Next

- Session 3: 4/29/20
  - Governance discussion, if needed
  - Individual Access Services
  - Individuals' right to use or disclose their own information without limitation
  - Meaningful choice
- Sessions 4 and 5: 5/13/20 and 5/27/20
  - Privacy, security, and patient safety (non-HIPAA entity issues)
  - Minimum necessary requirements
  - Written privacy policies and summary of privacy practices
  - Disclosures for specific purposes
  - Summary of disclosures
  - Breach notification
  - Ability of a QHIN, Participant or Participant Member to not receive Electronic Health Information (EHI)
  - Mandatory flow-downs to Participants and Participant Members
  - Access to Participant/QHIN agreements by ONC or RCE
  - Fees

# QHIN Technical Framework (QTF) Update

# Elements of the QHIN Technical Framework

- **Supported Information Flows:**
  - Patient Discovery
  - Document Query
  - Message Delivery
- **Functions and Technology to Support Exchange**
  - Certificate Policy
  - Secure Channel
  - Mutual QHIN Server Authentication
  - User Authentication
  - Authorization and Exchange Purpose
  - Patient Identify Resolution
  - Individual Privacy Preferences
  - Directory Services
  - Auditing
  - Error Handling
  - Onboarding and Testing

## Approach:

- Build from current capabilities
- Deploy known standards
- Keep an eye toward future approaches

## QTF Status

- Two public stakeholder feedback meetings
- Submitted draft QTF to ONC for review
- Review sessions with ONC
- QTF being revised based upon ONC feedback

# Stakeholder Feedback Meeting Recap



# Key Stakeholders to Engage



## Targeted Outreach

- Healthcare providers across the continuum
- Technology service providers
- Payers, purchasers and consumer groups
- State, local government and public health
- Health information networks
- ONC engaging federal agencies

*National and state associations included where appropriate*

Continuum of healthcare providers

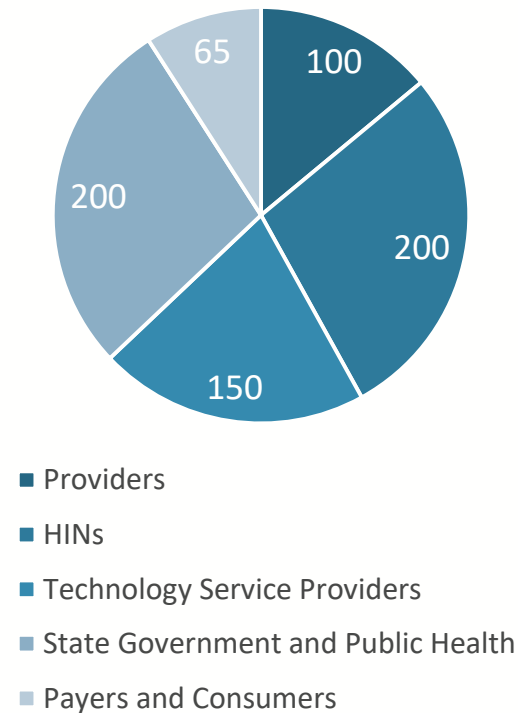


# Stakeholders Engaged to date (by Group)

The RCE engaged **665 key stakeholders** in **5 groups**:

- Providers across the care continuum
- Health Information Networks (HINs)
- Technology service providers
- State government and public health
- Payers and consumers

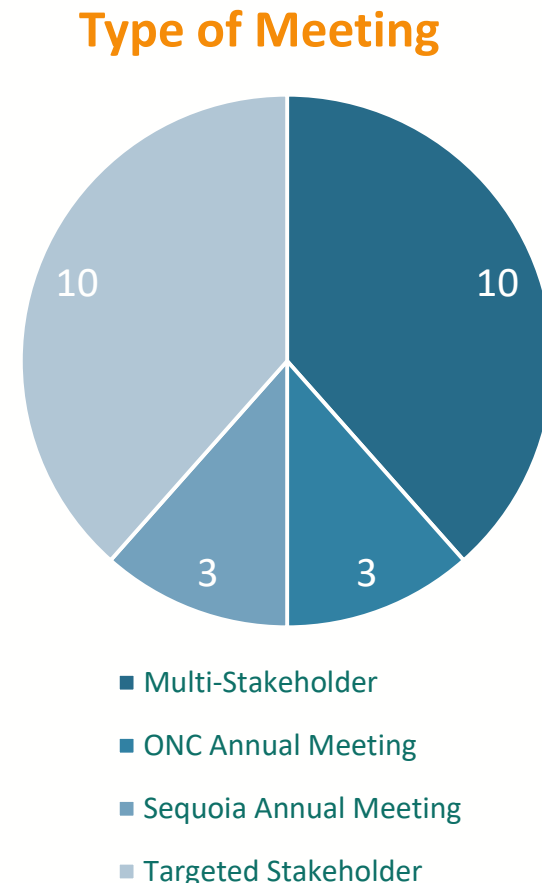
**Stakeholders by Group**



# Stakeholder Feedback Meetings to Date (by Type)

The RCE has facilitated **26 public feedback meetings with 2,500 participants**

- Multi-stakeholder feedback meetings
- ONC Annual Meeting sessions
- The Sequoia Project Annual Meeting
- Targeted stakeholder feedback meetings



# Common Themes Across Groups

- Questions on timelines
- Incorporation of FHIR-based exchange into the TEFCA ecosystem
- Clarification regarding whether HINs must support the technical specifications in the QTF for exchange within the HIN
- Capabilities necessary to be a QHIN
- Interaction with the finalized CMS and ONC interoperability rules
- Clarification regarding whether participation is mandatory

# Themes Within Stakeholder Groups

- State government and public health
  - Public health use cases
  - Impact on existing public health information exchange
  - Need for public health engagement and governance representation
  - Use of push modalities for public health
  - End to end encryption
- Health information networks
  - QHIN onboarding and designation process
  - Common Agreement flow down terms to QHIN Participants
  - Timeframes for amending existing agreements
  - Implications of state laws in relation to the Common Agreement

## Themes Within Stakeholder Groups (Cont'd)

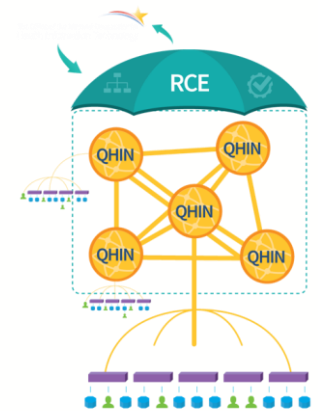
- Providers across the care continuum
  - Use of TEFCA for some (or all) exchange needs
  - Content of data exchanged (e.g. parsable, USCDI, etc.)
- Payers and consumers
  - Consumer education about TEFCA and involvement in developing the Common Agreement
  - Individual access to health information
  - What types of organizations might be QHINs
- Technology service providers
  - Document-based exchange and support for FHIR
  - Potential for duplicative data
  - Record locator service implementation (e.g., by QHIN, Participant)
  - Common Agreement Work Group process

## Next Steps



## What's Next?

- RCE will facilitate the CAWG process
- RCE will host monthly informational calls
- RCE will host a public call regarding the ARTCs
- RCE will submit drafts to ONC
  - Common Agreement Draft Version 1 for Public Comment – Combined contract terms (MRTCs / ARTCs)
  - QHIN Technical Framework (QTF) – Draft 2
- ONC will post the QTF Draft 2 and Common Agreement Draft Version 1 for public comment
- Public comments will inform next iteration of the Common Agreement and QTF



**Get involved:** <https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/contact/>



# Questions & Answers