



***“HIT Projects to Improve Access for Low Income Persons and the Uninsured:
Safety Net Providers Step up To the Plate”***

Presentation to the
Capitol Hill Steering Committee on Telehealth and Healthcare Informatics

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History of RCHN CHF

- Evolved out of a multi-tiered NYC-based Network consisting of a multi-site CHC, managed care Plan, and MSO
- Sale of the Plan in 2005 provided the opportunity to develop the Foundation and make a substantial commitment to the broader CHC community
- RCHN CHF is the only Foundation in the country devoted exclusively to FQHCs, and has a national scope



Mission and Goal

- The formation of the Foundation represents the natural progression of the Ryan Community Health Network and builds on it's unique strengths
- **Mission** is *To support and benefit the work of Community Health Centers*
- **Goal** *to help CHCs address primary challenges and drive positive, sustainable change for the CHC market*



RCHN CHF Program Interests

Three key program areas

- Healthcare Access and center stability
- Affordable prescription drugs
- Health information technology



RCHN CHF Strategies

- Not-for-profit operating Foundation
 - Entrepreneurial approach beyond traditional grant making
- Supports CHCs through
 - Strategic investment
 - Research
 - Coalition building
 - Advocacy
- Complements and supports work of NACHC, CHV and other foundations through collaboration and partnership



Technology Vision

- The RCHN Community Health Foundation's technology vision is *to provide community health centers with affordable access to the technology infrastructure needed to provide clinical care and support operations.*
- Technology activities may include strategic investment, joint program initiatives, and policy influence.



Technology Vision Drivers

- Community health centers have the same **basic** operating needs as other ambulatory healthcare organizations. These include traditional practice, clinical, reporting and financial management capabilities.
- However, in addition, Program Requirements of federally funded programs and FQHC reimbursement requirements further complicate and expand operational needs.
- Unique, state specific, Prospective Payment System implementation requirements add further complication.
- Limited financial resources of many health centers restrict adequate financing to support technology.



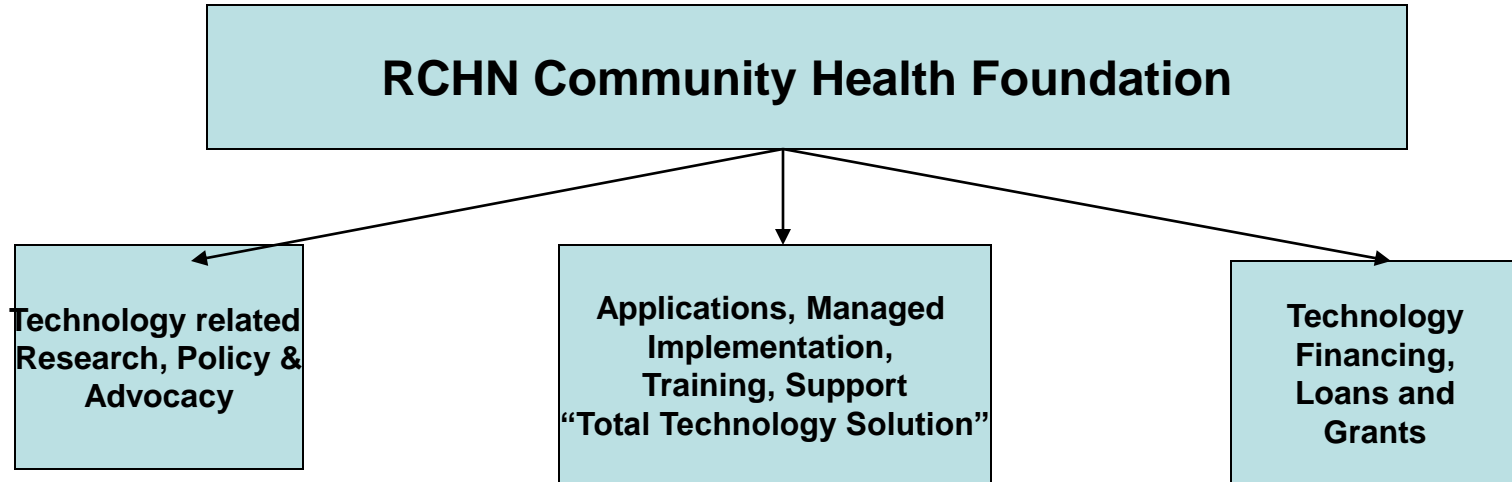
Need for CHC-Driven Solutions

- Given the complex requirements of health centers, there must be affordable technology solutions designed by and for health centers.
- The technology solutions must be delivered by organizations which understands the operating infrastructure of health centers and can address the issues associated with limited financial resources



Another Look at the Vision

The Foundation's goal is to provide CHCs with the support needed to implement and use technology effectively.





RCHN CHF Technology Initiatives

Technology **vision** is to *provide community health centers with affordable access to the technology infrastructure needed to provide clinical care and support operations.*

Technology **activities** include strategic investment, joint program initiatives, and policy influence through research.

- Applications and Support
 - Strategic program-related investment in Chorus to support CHC-focused HIT solutions
- Research, Policy and Advocacy
 - In-house research capacity for evaluation and assessment of HIT
 - Collaborative research to support HIT acquisition, adoption & reimbursement
- Technology Financing, Loans and Grants
 - Collaborative development of financing vehicles



“Supporting HIT Adoption in FQHCs”

Advance Review Copy/Working Draft:

- " Supporting Health IT Adoption in Federally Qualified Health Centers: Setting the Course for Quality Based Reimbursement."
- Conducted by Manatt Health Solutions and RSM McGladrey, with support from the RCHN Community Health Foundation, the California Health Care Foundation; the Community Clinics Initiative, a project of Tides and the California Endowment; and the Colorado Health Foundation and broad based working group.



“Supporting HIT Adoption in FQHCs”

- Addresses importance of leveraging Medicare and Medicaid to promote crucial investment in HIT and help prepare FQHCs for quality-based reimbursement.
 - Health centers need HIT to be well positioned for quality based reimbursement
 - In addition to access to capital, FQHCs need ongoing reimbursement for HIT
 - Strong basis for supporting HIT under existing revenue streams

