

HEALTH INFOSTRUCTURE ATLANTIC

COMMON VISION STATEMENT

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

HIA

**Better Information
Through Atlantic
Collaboration**

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HIA
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INTRODUCTION

In the Fall of 1999, by agreement of the Council of Atlantic Premiers, a collaborative know as Health Infostructure Atlantic (HIA) was created to develop greater levels of cooperation in health information technology and information management activities across Atlantic Canada. After an initial visioning and common opportunities workshop in March 2000, HIA pursued and was successful in receiving a portion of the required project funding under the Canada Health Infostructure Partnership Program for three specific projects: Case Management, Common Client Registry and Picture Archiving and Communications Systems, referred to as Tele-i4 by HIA members.

With these projects now fully underway, HIA committed to coming together once again to review and revise its vision, vision elements, and guiding principles to ensure a smooth entry into the next phase of its evolution.

Figure 1 shows the evolution of HIA as it migrates from an opportunity based consortium to a strategic and tactically oriented collaboration.

This report summarizes the results of this visioning and common opportunities workshop.



Figure 1: Evolution of HIA

In developing a vision statement, HIA members first used a questionnaire to individually develop a list of “desired future accomplishments” for the collaborative. These desired accomplishments were discussed, validated and accepted as elements of a future vision (Vision Elements). This material, together with the results from a comprehensive discussion on Guiding Principles, was used to create a long-term vision for HIA.

VISION, VISION ELEMENTS, GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Vision Statement

In March 2000 separate vision statements were created for each of the projects under consideration. While appropriate at the time, these visions did not establish a long-term direction for HIA. Using the process noted, the current visioning effort has generated a single common vision statement shared by all HIA members. This vision more appropriately describes a desired future state for HIA, as follows:

HIA will be a leader in promoting and adopting information and communication technologies, information products, and knowledge that improves the planning, delivery, management and monitoring of health and community-based services available to Atlantic Canadians.

Through collaboration, HIA will support the priorities of the Council of Atlantic Premiers, while respecting individual provincial priorities, and remaining aligned with federal, provincial, and territorial health infrastructure initiatives.

For information, figure 2, provides a graphic representation of the relationship between the mission, vision elements and guiding principles discussed below.

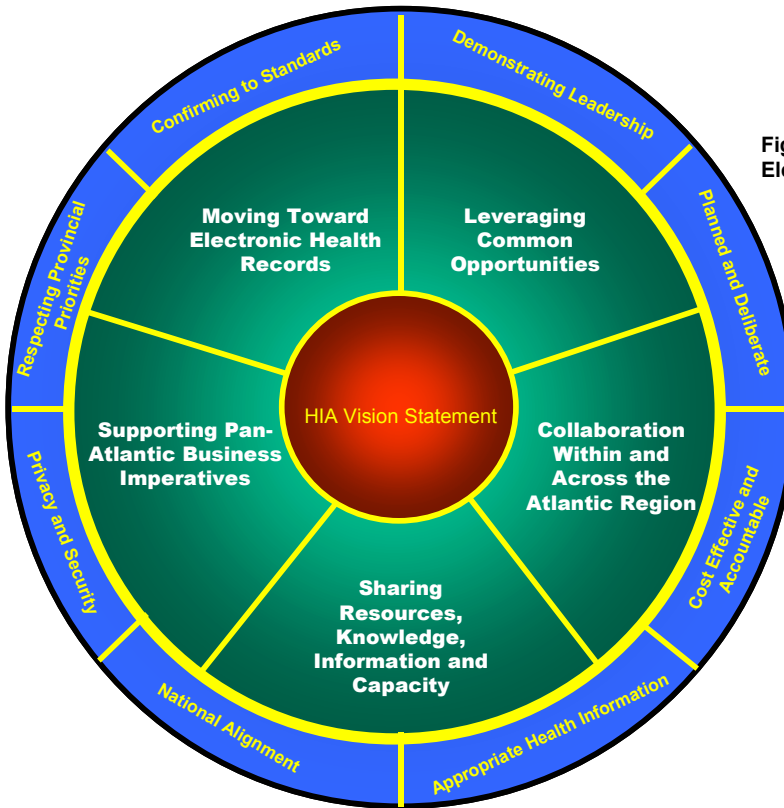


Figure 2. HIA Vision, Vision Elements and Guiding Principles

Vision Elements

A vision element is a key component required to achieve the vision. To determine the vision elements, HIA members were asked to respond to the question: “What do you want HIA to achieve in the next one to three years?” Their responses were analyzed, categorized into themes, and assessed against national and industry trends.

This analysis and the subsequent discussion resulted in the definition of the following key component or vision elements for HIA.

Move toward electronic health records

Electronic health records are key pieces of the national health infostructure as envisioned by the Advisory Committee on Health Infostructure (ACHI).

All Atlantic provinces concur with the need to move towards the development and deployment of electronic health records. HIA, as key

players in the ACHI and supporting working groups, acknowledges the national priority and will work to achieve components of an electronic health record.

Leverage common opportunities to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness

HIA members firmly believe that working together will bring benefits to the entire Atlantic region. The strength of a collaborative engagement will help to leverage resources and projects which may not be available or economically viable for individual provinces. HIA will seek to exploit common opportunities wherever such initiatives will bring benefits to the participants.

Collaborate within and across the Atlantic Region

The Atlantic provinces will continue to collaborate as a consortium to achieve synergy in collective and individual projects. Collaboration forms the heart of HIA activities. In addition, common opportunities need not involve all four Atlantic Provinces to have priority and to be successful.

Support pan-Atlantic health service business imperatives

HIA was created at the direction of the Council of Atlantic Premiers. Thus, HIA must remain aligned with the business imperatives of individual provinces and understand the need for individual flexibility in pursuing common projects.

Share resources, knowledge, information and capacity

HIA agrees that the synergistic benefits of the collaboration extend beyond individual projects. Provincial experiences, capability and resources are also key elements in the collaborative approach. HIA will share resources, knowledge, information and capacity wherever possible and practical.

Guiding Principles

HIA has adopted the following principles to guide its collective and individual behaviours within the context of the Atlantic collaborative:

Establish and conform to standards in information, technology and infostructure

A standards based environment will allow seamless connectivity between systems and across jurisdictions. Standards will improve the availability, quality and reliability of health data and information. As clinical,

technical and operational standards are developed, HIA will ensure that those developed within the context of Atlantic Canada initiatives will conform with provincial, national and international standards and guidelines.

Demonstrate leadership through innovation, collaboration and dissemination of results, outcomes, and lessons learned

To achieve a leadership role in health care, HIA must continually seek new and innovative approaches to issues common to some or all of Atlantic Canada. Continually sharing experiences and lessons learned will serve to benefit the health care delivered to all Atlantic Canadians. This collaborative approach will allow all participants to share in the experiences of others and will provide a sound basis from which to develop further projects.

Proceed with initiatives in a planned and deliberate manner

HIA will undertake to develop and execute appropriate strategic, tactical and operational plans to support its ongoing activities.

Be respectful of the individual provincial priorities and initiatives

The formation of HIA has been a positive step forward in cross-jurisdictional collaboration. Although, there is recognition that HIA cooperation will provide benefits, there is also an understanding that individual provincial priorities need to be respected amongst the HIA participants.

Ensure the privacy and security of health information

Privacy and security of health information is of paramount importance to HIA. Accordingly, HIA will advocate within all Atlantic Provinces for the adoption of all necessary and appropriate privacy and security measures.

Align our activities, wherever practical and appropriate, with those of national and industry initiatives such as the Advisory Committee on Health Infostructure (ACHI) Blueprint

There are many federal and industry supported health infostructure initiatives underway in Canada. Where it is feasible, HIA will participate in those opportunities and align standards, priorities and architecture to support those initiatives.

Strive to provide appropriate health information in support of health service delivery

HIA recognizes that health infostructure supports the delivery of health and community-based services to Atlantic residents. Accordingly, health infostructure is aimed at acquiring, managing and delivering accurate, timely and useful information required by health system practitioners and managers to deliver services and manage its operations. HIA will focus on the delivery of health information as a key element in the management of health infostructure.

Manage our activities in a cost effective and accountable manner

HIA recognizes that public accountability and fiduciary responsibilities are key elements of health infostructure management. HIA will ensure that its undertakings are conducted in a cost-effective manner.

CONCLUSION

This document presents a vision and guiding principles for HIA as it moves through another stage in its evolution from an opportunity driven consortium to a more strategic and tactically oriented collaborative. The results of this workshop will help HIA to build upon its past achievements by successfully identifying and developing future strategic and tactical initiatives.