The Nationwide Health Information Network Initiative

Status and Directions

John W. Loonsk, MD

Director of Interoperability and Standards
Office of the National Coordinator for Health
Information Technology

Agenda

- The NHIN initiative

- Health information network service provider models

- Building the NHIN

- Review of the conference agenda

Nationwide Health Information Network Initiative

…foster widely available services that facilitate the accurate, appropriate, timely, and secure exchange of health information

…information that follows the consumer and supports clinical decision making
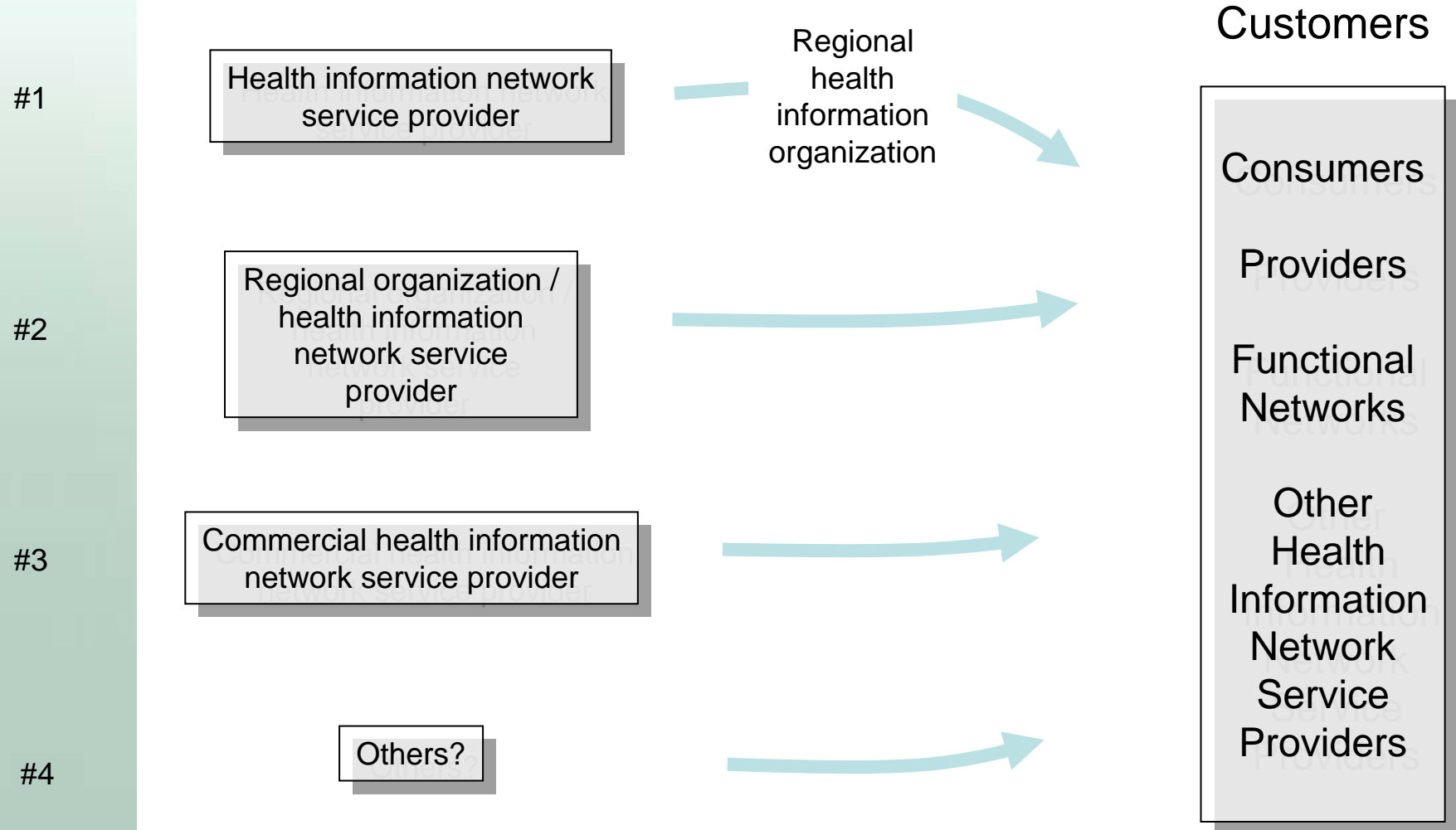
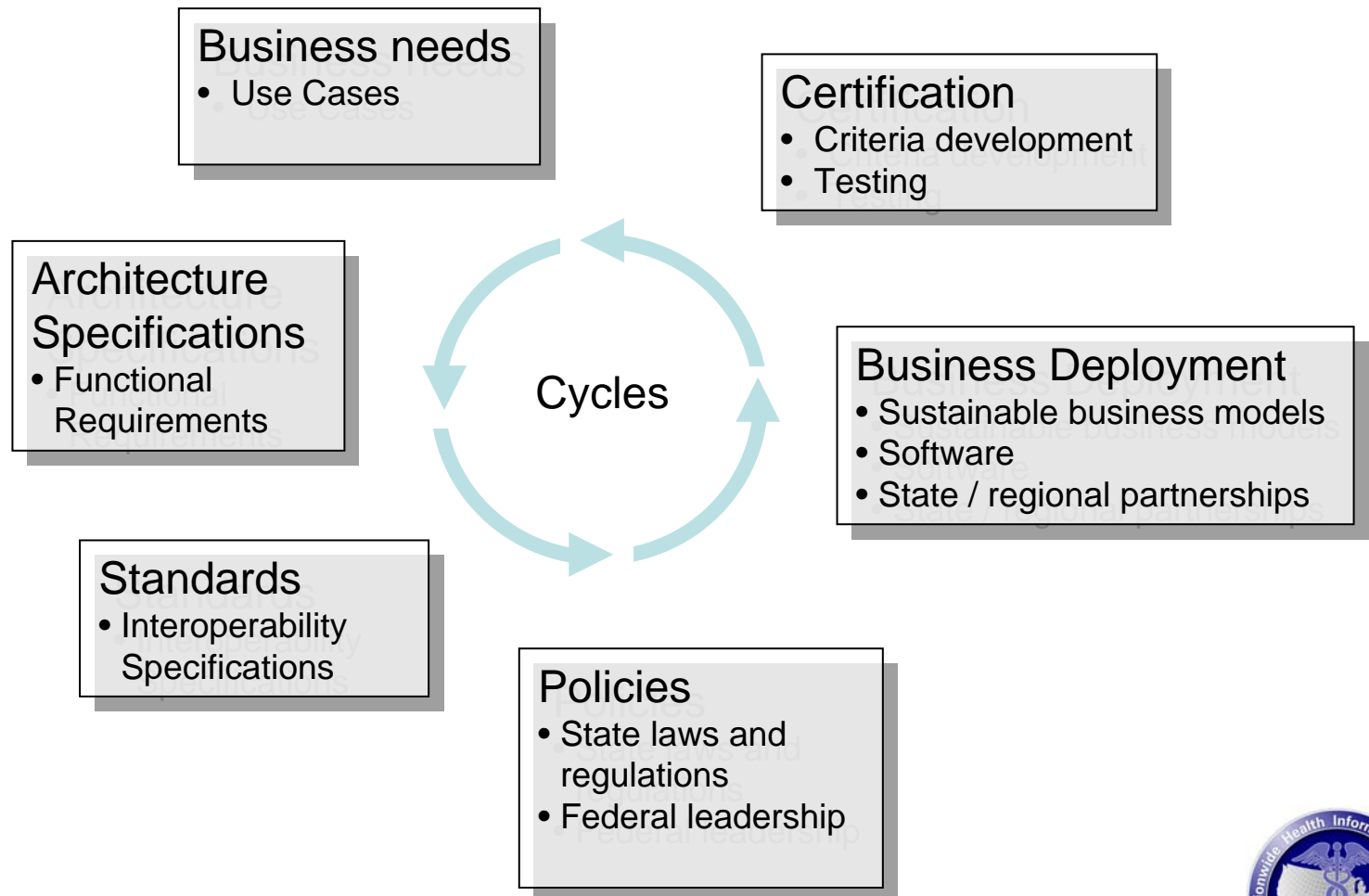# Nationwide Health Information Network Initiative

- Network of networks
  - Network service providers
  - Networks oriented to specific functions
  - Providers
  - Consumers
- State, regional, commercial and technical partnerships
- Business and technical services
  - Secure and sustainable
  - Respect consumer confidentiality
  - Health information network service providers (HINSP)

Health Information Network Service Provider Models

#1

Health information network service provider

Regional health information organization

Customers

#2

Regional organization / health information network service provider

Consumers

Providers

Functional Networks

#3

Commercial health information network service provider

Other Health Information Network Service Providers

#4

Others?

Building the NHIN

Business needs
- Use Cases

Certification
- Criteria development
- Testing

Architecture Specifications
- Functional Requirements

Cycles

Business Deployment
- Sustainable business models
- Software
- State / regional partnerships

Standards
- Interoperability Specifications

Policies
- State laws and regulations
- Federal leadership

Use Cases Considerations

- AHIC working group priority areas
  - Emergency Responder EHR
    - "proto – use case" available for feedback
  - Quality management issues
  - Secure messaging
  - Additional areas from existing working groups

- Gaps from HITSP, CCHIT

- Interest in many sectors around research and population health areas

Use Cases Considerations

- Focus necessary to tee up work and issues:
  - Functionality and business processes
  - Architecture and data issues
  - Barriers and incentives
  - Policy and regulatory considerations

- High specificity / avoiding architectural determinism

- What is / what needs to be, to support agenda

- Limit stovepipes
  - Make connections (e.g. CE's online consultation / CC's secure messaging)

Architecture Specifications

- **Functional Requirements**
  - NHIN Consortia and National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics
  - Initial set: October, 2006

- **Give definition to needs and capabilities**
  - Specify necessary behaviors of particpating networks and systems
  - Increasing specificity over time

- **Minimal**
  - Not certification requirements
  - Still need to be minimally restrictive

Standards

- **HITSP Interoperability Specifications**
    - First three to be presented to the AHIC this month
    - High specificity where necessary / limited constraints
    - Conformance testing will eventually be critical

- **Next Steps**
    - Another round of use cases
    - Needs of health networking (examples):
        - Security infrastructure
        - Enabling consumers
        - Support for access control
        - Record location
        - Inter-organizational auditing

Policies

- ## State laws and regulations
  - Privacy and Security Project (AHRQ / ONC)
  - State Alliance for e-Health
    - State level advisory body mirroring the role of AHIC
    - Forum for state collaboration
    - Long term solutions to ensure privacy and security
    - Review barriers to HIE in state laws.

- ## Federal leadership
  - AHIC and workgroups
  - Initiate and convene processes above
  - Regulatory considerations

Business Deployment

- Importance of local and regional activities
  - Partnerships:
    - State and regional health information organizations
    - Health care provider organizations
    - Public and private payers
    - Commercial technology expertise
  - Sustainable business models
    - Cost / revenue models and services
  - Software
    - Prototypes
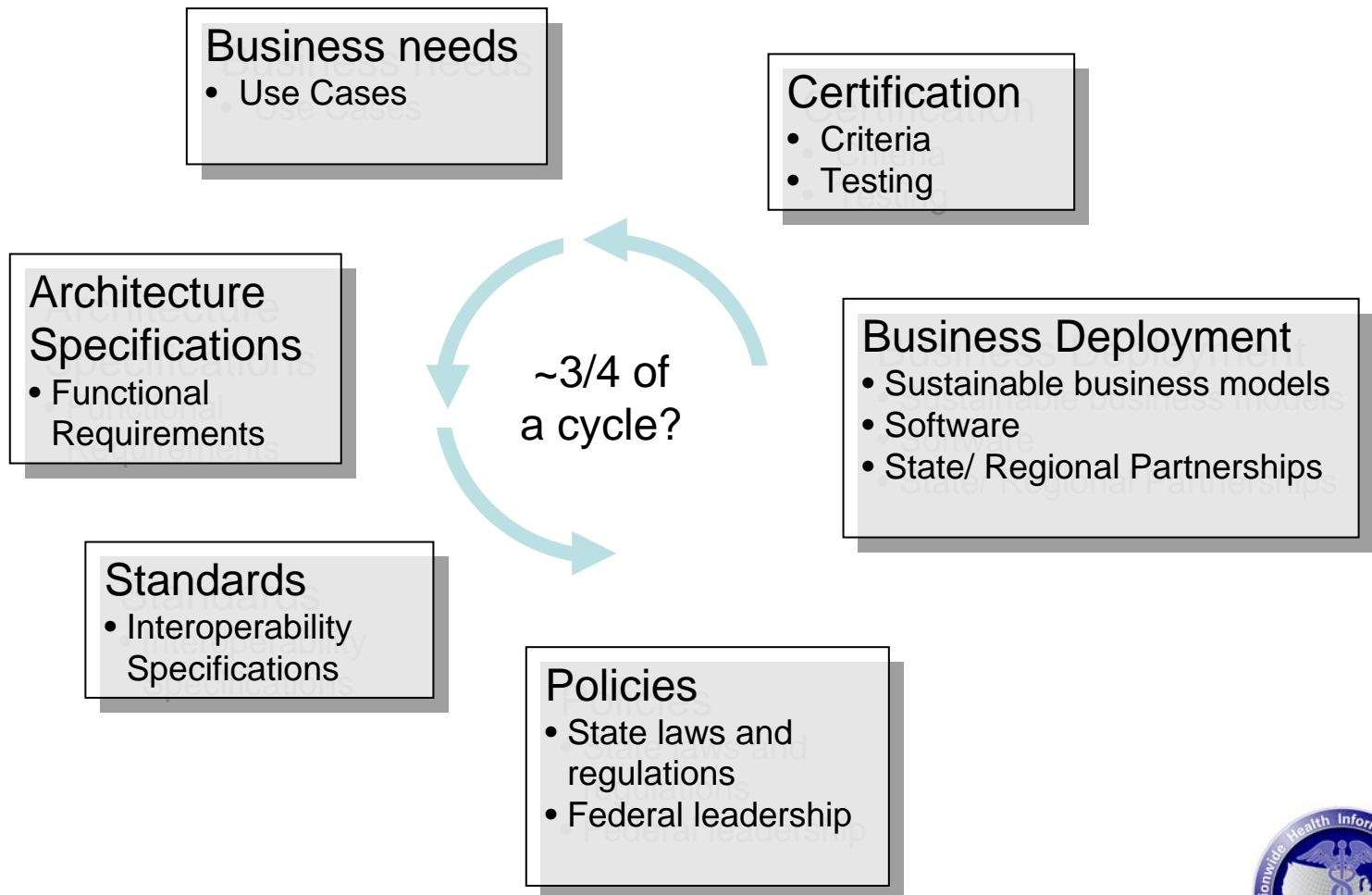   - Developing network enabled EHR services

Certification

- Certification Commission for Health Information Technology (CCHIT) criteria development
  - Year 1 - ambulatory EHR
  - Year 2 (this year) – inpatient, second round of ambulatory
  - Year 3 – initial networking, second round of inpatient, third of ambulatory

- Testing
  - Ongoing juror based inspection testing
  - Increasing needs for conformance level testing for interfaces between networks

Building the NHIN

Business needs
- Use Cases

Certification
- Criteria
- Testing

Architecture Specifications
- Functional Requirements

~3/4 of a cycle?

Business Deployment
- Sustainable business models
- Software
- State/ Regional Partnerships

Standards
- Interoperability Specifications

Policies
- State laws and regulations
- Federal leadership

Second NHIN Public Forum

- Breakouts structured to manifest several tensions:
  - Technical possibilities / issues of achieving adoption
  - Opportunities for new capabilities / realties of where systems are now
- Needs to plotting a path to get to the vision
- Forum content will feed into the agenda
  - Scribes in each session
  - AHIC
  - NCVHS
  - CPS working group
  - Next cycle of the NHIN Initiative and other aspects of the agenda

Security and Services

- Plenary
  - Update on initial NHIN Functional Requirements from the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics
  - AHIC Confidentiality, Privacy and Security Working Group
  - AHIC Quality Working Group

- Facilitated Breakouts
  - Services that could be provided by health information network service providers
  - Additional Standards Needs for the NHIN Initiative

Second NHIN Forum – October 2006

- Panel Breakouts
  - Approaches to Provider Authentication
  - Confidentiality and Secondary Use of Data

  - Patient-driven access control
  - Documenting the Data Context of Clinical Decisions

  - Matching Patient Data
  - Accurate Attribution of Data

  - Auditing Data Access
  - Information Distribution Approaches

- Closing Plenary – Connecting themes

- After the Forum
  - Workshop to Discuss a Common Testing Strategy for Implementing National Health Information Technology