

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 6, 2017

12/06/2017

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Wright-Patterson Medical Center Joins Health Information Exchange Electronic exchange promotes care coordination with civilian providers

Dayton, Ohio - The mission of [Wright-Patterson Air Force Base](#) is “To strengthen our people and optimize partnerships to deliver world-class capabilities.” [Wright-Patterson Medical Center](#) has embodied that statement by optimizing its collaboration with the [Ohio Health Information Partnership](#), a Health Information Exchange (HIE) allowing civilian providers to more quickly access their patient health records.

This e-health exchange has eliminated duplication of effort by improving communication, care coordination and enhanced safety by providing a more comprehensive patient record for 58,000 military personnel, their families and veterans.

Currently, the HIE has 157 hospitals participating in the exchange with 144 of them “live” in the network. The list of regional HIE participants include: Children’s Medical Center of Dayton, Premier Health Partners, Kettering Health Network, and Wilson Health System. Within the last month, Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus along with the Cleveland Clinic were added to this list. Since March 2015, Wright-Patterson Medical Center has worked on rolling out HIE services in a phased approach.

This approach ensured a successful rollout by gradually introducing new capabilities. Initial efforts started with a results delivery file which uploads patients’ test results and reports from hospitals to the medical center. File uploads occur in near real-time as tests are completed at the hospitals.

Several other solutions have provided more efficient access to patient health records, giving clinicians a truly comprehensive view of a patient’s health at the time of assessment. One solution is the ability to view a patient’s longitudinal health record, known as the Community Health Record. This web-based record provides access to patient health data created in other facilities, such as: treatment history, hospital encounters, problem lists, allergies, lab results, radiology and other transcribed reports exchanged through HIE.

Access to this system is granted to military personnel in the areas of Pediatrics, Admissions and Dispositions, Utilization Management, Case Management, In-House Supervisors and the Referral Management Center (RMC). Currently, the Medical Center’s RMC utilizes the Community Health Record to view patients’ records from hospitals and clinics.

“The center’s core objective is to collect patient data from all relevant sources to create a current, accurate, and comprehensive health care record,” explains Lieutenant Colonel George Delaney, who

spearheaded the partnership. “After a full overview of the program’s capabilities, I discovered there were other uses, like the RMC, which could leverage the data sharing system to gain efficiencies in patient health care management.”

Shelley Loudermilk, RMC Administrative Clerk, explains, “Receipt of patient records were delayed in the past and viable patient data was available days later. These types of circumstances have been remedied with the use of the Community Health Record. This system is an optimal way to obtain real-time information quickly and efficiently. It also improves the continuity of care for pediatric patients through improved efficiencies from central record maintenance and immediate access of complete patient medical history at time of treatment for our pediatric patients.”

A second solution, just being introduced at the Medical Center, allows military doctors and clinicians to be *notified* when one of their patients is admitted, discharged or transferred from another emergency department or hospital. Real-time updates on patient status allow quick response times for physicians to follow-up on patient medical emergencies.

Another service – known as Direct, a HIPAA certified secure messaging solution, allows physicians to receive discharge summaries and other continuity of care documents (CCDs) from area hospitals in a secure environment. Patient medical history, including prescribed medications and medical services are available using this service.

Leveraging the nationwide connectivity model, the Sequoia Project, Wright-Patterson clinicians will be able to search Ohio’s HIE for a patient and retrieve these continuity of care documents from every facility a patient has visited. This functionality will be directly integrated with the Department of Defense’s VLER (Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record) system. It’s notable that Ohio’s grass-roots HIE attracted the attention of the Department of Defense (DoD).

In September 2017, this Query and Retrieve function (QnR) allows Wright-Patterson providers to query Ohio’s Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative (OPCPCC) for patient information on their patients utilizing the DoD’s Joint Legacy Viewer within their own electronic health record system and workflow. Later this year, civilian hospitals using the Community Health Record or the integrated QnR solution will be able to request data from the DoD for military patient information.

“This bi-directional exchange with VLER validates the DoD’s proof of concept for a nationwide footprint of connectivity,” states Lieutenant Colonel George Delaney.

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Ohio Ballot Board Approves Community Rights State Constitutional Amendments

Right of local community self-government advances

COLUMBUS, OHIO: Yesterday, the Ohio Ballot Board unanimously approved two proposed state constitutional amendments, determining they each meet the single subject requirement. A legal representative of the people, community members, and several members of the [Ohio Community Rights Network](#) (OHCRN) attended the hearing to voice their support to the Ballot Board members.

Ohio residents are advancing the *Ohio Community Rights Amendment* and the *Initiative and Referendum for Counties and Townships Amendment*. The [Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund](#) (CELDF) assisted residents and the OHCRN to draft and legally review the measures.

Gwen Fischer, a member of Portage County Community Rights Group, helped gather initial signatures for the measures. She stated, "The people working on Community Rights in Ohio know that it is standard practice for our state legislature to propose and pass laws that violate the single subject rule in the constitution, so it was gratifying to see the Ballot Board not apply a stricter standard to the people."

The Ohio Community Rights Amendment codifies the right to local community self-government, enabling local governments to protect and expand fundamental rights and prohibit corporate

activities that violate those rights. It also secures the authority of communities to put in place stronger environmental rights and protections than those recognized at the state, federal, or international level.

The Initiative and Referendum Amendment for Counties and Townships amendment extends the right to initiative and referendum to residents living in townships and counties. Today, only city and village residents can exercise their inalienable right to propose and repeal laws. However, nearly 39% of Ohio's population resides in townships. They do not have the same constitutional right to legislate. This amendment extends equal rights to local self-government to all Ohio residents, regardless of where they live.

The Attorney General certified both initiatives on November 27th. With the approval of the Ballot Board, residents will begin gathering signatures.

Residents are facing ongoing efforts by state government to strip local-governing authority over fracking, gun control, predatory lending, minimum wage, and more. Corporate lobbyists draft state preemptive laws, which are then adopted by state legislators.

“Since 2012, residents have advanced local Community Rights laws to stop fracking, pipelines, and other fossil fuel projects threatening their health, safety, and welfare as well as local election law and rights of nature. As those efforts build, so have efforts to stop the people from protecting themselves and creating the communities they envision. These state constitutional measures ensure that the authority of we, the people, is elevated above corporate or state claims to have decision-making powers over us,” stated Tish O'Dell, CELDF's Ohio organizer.

This grassroots movement by the people of Ohio is not backed or funded by large corporate donors. The OHCRN and its allies invite residents from across the state to join the fight for rights! Sign up to volunteer at www.ohcommunityrights.org.

Ohio Communities Part of Growing Movement

Local communities and state Community Rights Networks are partnering with CELDF to advance and protect fundamental democratic and environmental rights. They are working with CELDF to establish Community Rights and the Rights of Nature in law, and prohibit extraction, fracking, factory farming, water privatization, and other industrial activities as violations of those rights. Communities are joining together within and across states, working with CELDF to advance systemic change - recognizing our existing system of law and governance as inherently undemocratic and unsustainable.

Additional Information

For additional information regarding the state amendments, contact CELDF at info@celdf.org. To learn about the Ohio Community Rights Network, visit ohiocrn.org. To learn about the Community Rights Movement, visit www.celdf.org.

About CELDF — Community Environmental Legal Defense

Fund

The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund is a non-profit, public interest law firm providing free and affordable legal services to communities facing threats to their local environment, local agriculture, local economy, and quality of life. Its mission is to build sustainable communities by assisting people to assert their right to local self-government and the Rights of Nature.