

# Transformations at the Edge

Federated Collaboratives for Health Information Technology, Research & Advocacy



## Health IT Transformations in Free Clinics

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# Health IT Transformations in Free Clinics

Webinar Organized By



A Passion to Help. The Ability to Deliver.

**Presenter:**



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**Host:**

**Euthimios "ET" Theotokatos**

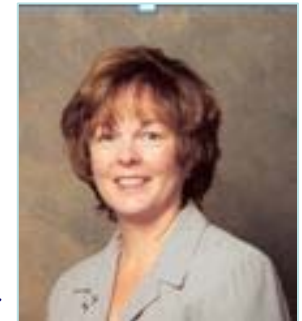
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**Guest Speaker:**

**Christy Fitzgerald**

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# Health IT

“The future is already here  
– it’s just not evenly distributed”

William Ford Gibson

# Health IT Transformations in Free Clinics

## □ Goals

- ❖ To transform patient care and reduce health disparities through the use of Health Information Technology

## □ Objectives

- ❖ Achieve “**Meaningful Use**” of Electronic Health Records (EHR) in Free Clinics consistent with the national Health IT agenda.
- ❖ Connect Free Clinics to State Level Health Information Exchanges and the **Nationwide Health Information Network (NwHIN)**
- ❖ Develop and support a **Practice Based Research Network (PBRN)** focused on conducting health disparities research and quality improvement studies in Free Clinics.
- ❖ Advance the **Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH)** in Free Clinics

**MU \* HIE \* PBRN \* PCMH**

# Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH)

## ❑ What is PCMH

- ❖ Evidence-Based Medicine & Decision Support at Point-of-Care
- ❖ Delivery of Care – Chronic Care Model (CCM)
- ❖ Integrated plan for partnership with Patients & families
- ❖ Patient communication
- ❖ Identify & measure key Quality Indicators
- ❖ **Health IT**

## ❑ Benefits of PCMH

- ❖ Re-vitalize Patient-Physician relationship;  
Patient as nucleus of care
- ❖ Enhance quality, effectiveness, safety, efficiency
- ❖ Enhance coordination of care across domains
- ❖ Recognize care provided by Primary Care Physician
- ❖ Macro system changes – enriched healthcare model



**Model of care embedded in Health Reform**

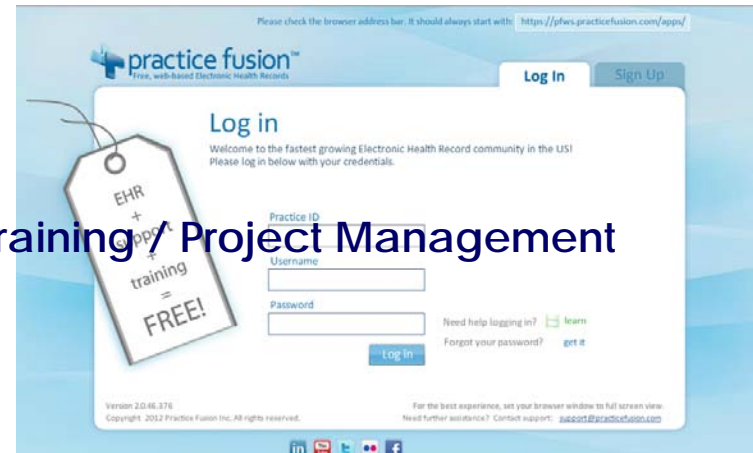
# Health IT & Meaningful Use of EHRs



- ❖ It's about people – not about technology
- ❖ Means to an end – not an end in itself

# EHR Implementation – The Process

1. Readiness Assessment
2. Gather the Team
3. Hands-on Demos & [Wiki](#) based EHR Training / Project Management
4. Technology Assessment
5. Plan for Data Migration
6. Train the “Power Users”
7. Start scheduling appointments using the system (early wins)
8. Enter “structured data” into the EHR
9. Conduct Privacy & Security Audits
10. Become Meaningful Users



# EHR Implementation Challenges

## A Free Clinic Executive Director's Perspective.....

- ❑ Getting Physicians On-board
- ❑ Training Volunteer Staff
- ❑ Data Migration
- ❑ Workflow Re-Design
- ❑ Managing Productivity Loss
- ❑ Protocols for "structured data entries"
- ❑ Best Practices Dissemination





# Practice Based Research Networks (PBRN)

- ❑ Collaborative of community Practices, Clinicians, and Researchers
  - ❖ Linked together by shared infrastructure
  - ❖ Draws on the **experience and insight of practicing clinicians**
  - ❖ Identifies and frames research questions
  - ❖ **Conducts research with focus on patient-oriented evidence in primary care settings**
  - ❖ Bridges gap between research and QI, discovery and application, academicians and practitioners
  - ❖ Spawns **learning communities**
  - ❖ Building blocks for **Translational Research**
  
- ❑ Participatory governance structure
  - ❖ Setting research priorities
  - ❖ Defining research questions
  - ❖ Designing studies
  - ❖ Interpreting / Implementing findings



**Goal: Practice Improvement....**

# FREENet – The Free Clinic PBRN

- ❑ The Free Clinic Research & Educational Engagement Network (FREENet) is a group of Free Clinics (ambulatory care settings) devoted to improving primary care for patients.
  
- ❑ An initiative of Transformations at the Edge (TATE)
  
- ❑ **Mission Statement**  
To advocate, enable, conduct, and promote translational research in practice-based settings that addresses questions of significance to the discipline of Family Medicine, and advances the Patient Centered Medical Home.
  
- ❑ **Goals for FREENet**
  - ❖ Enhance Translational Research capabilities in Ambulatory Care Settings
  - ❖ Advance Evidence-Based Practice Model
  - ❖ Improve quality of care by enabling better decision support at point of care
  - ❖ Develop programs for supporting Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER)
  - ❖ Create technology platforms for advancing the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH)

# Combining Patients, Practices & Protocols

- ❖ Capture, de-identify, coded and standardized data from EHRs, other sources
- ❖ Provide quality improvement tools
- ❖ Extract data for research & performance reports



# Free Clinics - TATE Partnership

## A Model of Community-Based Partnerships to Advance the National Health IT Agenda!

- ❑ Current implementations in Florida, Mississippi, Texas, Ohio
- ❑ To date – 15 EHR implementations completed or in various stages of implementation; 400+ users
- ❑ 2012 Goal – Implement EHRs in at least 25 Free Clinics in FL; and 10-15 implementations in other states.
- ❑ 2013 Goal – 120 Clinics with EHRs; 3,500 – 5,000 users
- ❑ Collaborating to build/scale FREENet
- ❑ Partnership with the American Academy of Family Physicians National Research Network (AAFP NRN) & DARTNet Institute
- ❑ EHR data extracts, applications – enhanced reporting capabilities



# Free Clinics – Health IT

“The future is already here  
– ~~it’s just not evenly distributed~~  
and we own a piece of it!



Let’s make it happen....