Solano County Mental Health Electronic Health Records Project

March 2010

What is an electronic health record (EHR)?

- An electronic health record is simply a replacement of a paper medical chart with a digital copy that can be created, stored, and edited on a computer.

What is an electronic health record (EHR)

- **Current Files**

- **Electronic Health Record**

- Messy
- Only available in one place

- Neat
- Can be accessed from any county clinic

EHR Systems may include:

- Practice management (scheduling and registration)
- Billing and financial tracking systems
- Electronic records of assessments, treatment plans, and progress notes
- Electronic prescription transmission to pharmacy
- Management reporting systems
- Consumer access to personal health records and on line appointment scheduling

What are the benefits of an EHR System?

- EHRs provide a legible record
- EHRs result in more structured and standardized treatment planning
  - Solano County is participating in a coalition with other counties to develop better standardized treatment plan tools
- Progress notes are linked to treatment plans
- Records are available in real time at any time and anywhere a consumer needs to be seen
- In addition to improving treatment, EHR systems can reduce audit exceptions and billing errors by alerting users to incomplete or incorrect entries

Solano County's EHR Implementation Consists of Three Projects

- November 2009 to June 2010 - **EHR Readiness Project** – documenting workflows and identifying requirements, developing a Request for Proposals (RFP)

- July 2010 through June 2012 - **EHR Implementation Project** – purchase and installation of:
    - Practice managerment system
    - Clinician's workstation
    - E-prescribing
    - Information exchange with Public Health Primary Care systems

- After June 2012 - **Personal Health Records** consumer access to personal data and appointment scheduling through the Internet

We have heard this story before…

- Yes, Solano County has tried to acquire a new mental health EHR System before – so what is different now?
  - The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) has allocated money to Solano County to implement a system
    - We have received $557,000 for the readiness project
    - We are requesting over $2,000,000 for the Acquisition and Implementation Project in the FY 2010/2011 MHSA plan update
  - The Federal Government is requiring that Medicare/Medi-Cal providers make "meaningful use" of EHR systems before 2014

Any Questions?

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