



Interoperability Matters

Public Health Community of Practice

Charter

09/30/2025

Purpose

The Public Health Community of Practice provides participants a national convenings to share information, learning, and best practices at the intersection of public health and health data interoperability. The Community will discuss challenges and opportunities for states and other public health authorities. Areas of focus may include policy and regulatory alignment, programmatic challenges, modernization needs, TEFCA, data and/or data privacy, funding, resources (both human and financial), security, and communications.

Background

The concept for a Public Health Community of Practice evolved from the Public Health Workgroup, which evolved from the Emergency Preparedness Workgroup launched in 2020. The previous workgroups delivered pragmatic recommendations and practical solutions related to interoperability, data exchange, and health IT modernization challenges that public health entities and stakeholders can readily use. Now that the workgroup has met its originally chartered deliverables, and in consideration of the current public health landscape, this Community of Practice will provide a continuity of conversation and awareness as well as a conduit to The Sequoia Project for public health insights, relationships, and strategic recommendations relevant to the challenges public health is facing today.

Strategic Goal

The Public Health Community of Practice seeks to contribute to Sequoia's strategic mission to advance interoperability for the public good. This community of practice is rather unique in that it is comprised of public health subject matter experts from across the country. Participants are typically part of a state agency and may not be able to become Sequoia members. However, given the importance of interoperability between public health agencies, providers and payers and public health's use case within TEFCA, this community will serve as an information conduit.

Key Objectives

- Share innovations, challenges, and best practices at the intersection of public health and interoperability through virtual convenings of community members 3 times a year and a convening open to the public 1 time a year
- Disseminate key messages and opportunities for awareness to Sequoia leadership and membership
- Provide feedback loop to TEFCA and Interoperability Matters workgroups

Proposed Roadmap

This Community of Practice will convene on a quarterly basis effective January 2026.

Composition

The Community of Practice composition will remain the same as the previous public health workgroups and includes deep public health subject matter experts with real-life experience providing services to their communities and states. Community participation is by invitation and is comprised of public health subject matter experts, primarily from state agencies and others with deep public health interests and backgrounds including electronic health records vendors, health IT interoperability organizations, national organizations such as the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, and the HHS Assistant Secretary for Technology and Policy office.

Community of Practice Leadership and Staffing

The Sequoia Project staff facilitate and organize the Community of Practice. Co-Chairs are appointed by The Sequoia Project. Sequoia staffing support will include program support to schedule quarterly virtual convenings

Planned Output(s)

- 4 Community of Practice convenings per year
- Key messages to Sequoia membership via Branching Out Newsletter or Blog Post
- Feedback to Sequoia leadership and board

Impacts

- Sharing Knowledge: Key messages from the intersection of public health and interoperability will be shared broadly with Sequoia membership and strategically with Sequoia's leadership and board.
- Informing Policy: The Community of Practice lead will create feedback loops to TEFCA and other Interoperability Matters workgroups as appropriate.