



Center for Health Transformation
Better health, lower cost

Center for Health Transformation E-Newsletters

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CHT Founder, Newt Gingrich, has been nominated for the *Modern Healthcare* "100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare" annual ranking. [Cast your vote now!](#) (Voting closes Friday, July 23rd.)

Transformation must occur on many fronts simultaneously— including moving the system toward prevention and wellness, developing a new system of health justice, and achieving the quality and cost information transparency which patients have the Right to Know. All of these initiatives, among others, are projects of the Center. However, one of the drivers of creating a transformed 21st Century Intelligent Health and Healthcare System, accelerating the adoption of interoperable health information technology, has achieved continued noteworthy momentum, thanks in large part to the Center and our members.

CHT
Founder
Newt
Gingrich

- On June 15th, we organized a working forum of key private and public sector leaders around defining and prioritizing incentives from the government to advance health IT. (see [project spotlight below](#).)
- The Center sent an open report to HHS Secretary Thompson and newly appointed Health Information Technology Coordinator, Dr. David Brailer, on HIT incentives which Dr. Brailer can use when drafting his strategic plan scheduled to be revealed at the National Health Informatics Initiative July 21st. He can also use it as he is developing the report mandated by the President on HIT incentives. Initial feedback is that the report is proving to be helpful and is being referenced in various official channels.
- Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) hosted a Health IT summit in Rhode Island on June 21st where I emphasized the urgent need to accelerate the use of health information technology to prevent deaths due to medical errors, increase quality of care, and decrease overall health costs.
- I have spoken at congressional meetings and with Republicans and Democrats, as well as health leaders at HHS and the White House, to advocate for urgent action on Health IT.

The Center's vision for health transformation also has an audience internationally:

- The message of health information technology, individual control over healthcare, and the value of quality and cost information were my key themes during meetings and speeches in Japan, including a keynote at the American Chamber of Commerce of Japan and Japan's opposition party.
- The transformation message penetrated deeply in Ireland. I gave the keynote address at "Transforming Healthcare in the New Europe," a conference hosted by [Fleishman-Hillard](#) and [Pfizer](#), which was surrounded by an intense [television and print media blitz](#) highlighting the health transformation message. At that time, Ireland presided over the European Union, so Ireland's Minister for Health and Children opened the conference holding up a copy of [Saving Lives & Saving Money](#), a book I wrote with Dana Pavey and Anne Woodbury, and called it "essential reading for any European Health Minister".
- At the *Atlantic Bridge's Conservative Party Leadership Conference* in London, a focus of my remarks was the transformation of England's National Health Service.
- Vince Haley, CHT's Health Savings Account Project Director, moderated a CEO panel of Center member companies, [Lumenos](#) and [HealthTrio](#). The panel, "*Consumer-Choice Healthcare American Style: Early lessons for transforming health in Europe*" highlighted the early results of the increasingly popular and transformational information-rich, consumer-directed healthcare plans.

The principles of a transformed 21st Century Health and healthcare system are gaining ground. Many people are already advocating proposals that come out of the model we're advocating. As Congress breaks for the two party conventions and the August break, there is a great deal of activity underway and we are confident that health will be a major issue in this year's Presidential and Congressional campaigns. Turning the activity into progress, especially on health IT, will be the Center's key message for the fall.

The Center for Health Transformation would like to welcome our newest Premier member of the Center: [IDX Systems Corporation](#). Please visit the [list of members](#) often to keep abreast of who is joining the Center.

A "[Member News](#)" page has recently been added to the CHT website. We encourage all members to send us information on any honors or awards for which your organization has been recognized, and we will post to the web site. Please email **awards and honors only** to info@healthtransformation.net.

Project Spotlight

CREATIVE INCENTIVES FOR HEALTH IT FORUM

One of the most significant milestones in creating a 21st Century Intelligent Health and Healthcare System would be for the United States to possess an interoperable health information technology (HIT) infrastructure. On April 27th, President Bush created the position of National Health Information Coordinator within HHS and mandated a report within 90 days on how the government can use incentives to advance HIT adoption.

The Center for Health Transformation voluntarily took on the task of organizing a private sector contribution to the HHS incentive report by offering an open [white paper on incentives](#) to HHS. In addition to evaluating previously published research and new research conducted through individual discussions with high level industry decision-makers, the Center teamed up with CHT Charter Member [Booz Allen Hamilton](#) to host an event on June 15th —the Creative Incentives for Health IT Forum. Attendees included CHT members and many participants from the May 6th HHS IT Summit.

The forum's morning session featured remarks from Dr. David Brailer, National Health Information Technology Coordinator, Dr. Anthony Nowlan, (until recently) Executive Director of the National Health Service Information Authority in the UK, Dr. David Knott, Vice President of Booz Allen Hamilton, CHT Founder Newt Gingrich, and CHT's Chief Health Advocate, Anne Woodbury. Melissa Chapman, Booz Allen Hamilton Senior Associate, served as the chief facilitator, instructing the attendees on the objectives and format of the workgroups. The 150 attendees were organized into eleven workgroups to identify incentives the government could offer to accelerate the private sector adoption of HIT. The workgroups also identified what actions needed to be taken to implement the incentive, i.e. a change in law or regulation, additional funding, etc. Facilitators for the workgroups included Center Director of Operations, Melissa Ferguson, and Project Director, Laura Linn.

A few of the most popular incentives were:

- The government issuing nationwide data standards to insure interoperability
- The creation of a government low interest loan program for healthcare providers to purchase health information technology
- Bonuses, both financial and non-financial, for healthcare providers who use health information technology to achieve better outcomes
- Decreased co-pays, deductibles, and premiums for consumers who choose providers using health information technology
- Capping the malpractice insurance premiums for healthcare providers using health information technologies
- Providing training for healthcare providers to utilize HIT

After a facilitator from each group outlined the major findings of his or her workgroup, personal electronic voting devices were used to poll the audience. Below are the major findings:

- 51% of the respondents reported that they would expect the ramp-up time of EHR would be 1-3 years if incentives were implemented.

- 47% of respondents reported that creating data standards is the most necessary first step to creating an interoperable healthcare information technology system
- 77% of respondents reported that improving patient safety was the most critical reason for adopting EHRs

The Forum is part of CHT's broader HIT Initiative. More information may be found on the [Interoperable Health Information Technology \(HIT\) Project Page](#).

Gingrich Extols a More Technologically Adept Health System . Article on Newt Gingrich's testimony at the House subcommittee Hearing on July 14th appeared in the *Congress Daily*: "As the Bush administration prepares for next week's unveiling of its strategy for updating the nation's information technology infrastructure for health care, former House Speaker Gingrich told a House subcommittee Wednesday that the effort needs to come much faster than many anticipate." [Read more \(subscription required\)](#).

Newt Gingrich testified at House Subcommittee Hearing on July 14th. "Topic: Health Informatics: What is the prescription for success in intergovernmental information sharing and emergency response?" [Read testimony](#).

Report by Gingrich's Center Says Government Incentives Could Drive IT Adoption and Save Thousands of Lives Annually. "Health information technology could penetrate nationwide within five years if specific incentives were facilitated by the government, states a new Center for Health Transformation report sent today to HHS Secretary Thompson and newly appointed National Health Information Technology Coordinator, Dr. David Brailer." [Read press release](#).

Vision of Newt. "Like any good visionary, Newt Gingrich has a vision -- or two, or three. They come tumbling off his tongue in the self-assured tone of a man who does not hesitate to remind audiences he has a bit of experience making history. The ideas are, in Gingrich's words, 'very big.' Take his vision for the health system of the future." [Read more](#).

CHT Founder, Newt Gingrich, has been nominated for the *Modern Healthcare* "100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare" annual ranking. *Modern Healthcare* is once again running its "100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare" annual ranking. Last year Newt Gingrich, Founder of the Center for Health Transformation debuted on the list at #19. [Read more](#).

Finding common ground in improving health care - Newt Gingrich and Patrick Kennedy agree that building computerized health-information networks will save lives and save money. "Backed by Gingrich's Center for Health Transformation, Kennedy plans to file legislation that would begin the process of building health-information networks, promote research into what works and what doesn't in health care, and set up payment systems that will reward high-quality care." [Read more](#).

Kennedy, Gingrich team up behind better health-care technology. In June, "Gingrich

joined Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., to talk about technology in hospitals today. The pair put behind party differences to advocate for better use of technology in hospitals." [Read more](#).

How health reforms can save lives and save money. Newt Gingrich's op-ed appeared in the *Irish Independent* on June 24th. [Read entire op-ed](#).

Visit the [CHT in the News](#) section on the Center for Health Transformation's web site to read more!

A "[Member News](#)" page has recently been added to the CHT website. We encourage all members to send us information on any honors or awards for which your organization has been recognized, and we will post to the web site. Please email **awards and honors only** to info@healthtransformation.net.

The next monthly member teleconference will be held **Tuesday, July 27th at 3 p.m. Eastern**. Access to this call is restricted to Charter, Premier and Associate members. If you would like more information about how to become a member of the Center, please contact us at **(202) 414-1800** or info@healthtransformation.net.

July 17th to 20th – Seattle, WA. *Newt Gingrich to participate at the National Governor's Association meeting*

July 21st - Salt Lake City, UT. *CHT State Project Director, Vince Haley, to participate on a panel at the National Conference of State Legislatures Annual Meeting*

July 27th. *CHT Member Conference Call at 3 p.m. Eastern*

August 12th. *CHT Member Conference Call at 2 p.m. Eastern*

September 8th – Washington, DC. *CHT 3rd Quarterly Member Meeting*

For more information on these events or to view other CHT events, please visit <http://www.healthtransformation.net/events>.

Transforming Example Spotlight

The Center for Health Transformation is constantly seeking solutions that improve quality and lower cost. You may find numerous transforming examples on our website by visiting our [case studies section](#). We encourage you to submit your own transforming example via the website!

This month's Transforming Example Spotlight: **HealthCare Dimensions**

[HealthCare Dimensions Incorporated \(HCD\)](#) is a healthcare services company that promotes the health of older adults nationally through unique physical activity programs. The company's SilverSneakers® Fitness Program was created to meet this need and has since evolved to become one of the leading senior exercise programs in the country.

Enrollment in the SilverSneakers® Fitness Program has reduced members' high-risk, sedentary behavior by 70%, and 44% of enrollees report increasing their frequency of physical activity by an average of two days per week. Members also experience lower utilization of high-cost healthcare services over time resulting in the avoidance of preventable costs.

If a program such as SilverSneakers® was offered through every Medicare+Choice health plan to its families and even 20% of them enrolled, the health plans would avoid over \$300 million per year in healthcare costs. If this cost avoidance was extended to tomorrow's 15 million M+C, PPO, and PFFS Medicare recipients, it would top \$1 billion per year. If the federal government provided the SilverSneakers® Fitness Program to all 39 million Medicare beneficiaries, over \$3 billion in unnecessary healthcare costs would be avoided.

To read more about HealthCare Dimension's outcomes, please visit the [complete case study](#).



If you would like to become a member of the Center or are interested in financially sponsoring a specific project, please contact us at 202.414.1800 or info@healthtransformation.net. Please also visit our website at <http://www.healthtransformation.net/>.

The Center for Health Transformation, founded by Speaker Newt Gingrich is dedicated to saving lives and saving money through driving transformational solutions and policies throughout the system. These e-mails from Newt are updates about the Center for Health Transformation, providing an insider's view of key events and opportunities for transformation. Some of you have already signed up for membership in the Center. Others are being sent this email as an invitation to membership.

The Center for Health Transformation does not provide lobbying services nor directly or indirectly participate in lobbying activities of any kind. The Center for Health Transformation further does not render legal advice, perform accounting

services, nor act as an investment advisor or broker-dealer within the meaning of applicable state and federal securities laws.

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