Lantana
CONSULTING GROUP

Executing FHIR-First Interoperability for the RHTP

States applied for Rural Health Transformation Program funds with bold visions of the future of rural healthcare in their state. One large component of RHTP funding is data modernization. States aim to connect disparate systems, transforming data into timely, life-saving insights that can inform management of chronic disease and prevent disease outbreaks. This also reduces administrative burden on clinicians allowing more time with patients.

Partnerships, particularly those that understand both policy intent and on-the-ground implementation challenges, will be key to achieving state goals.

Lantana Consulting Group is a trusted partner with over 20 years of success in designing, building, harmonizing, and implementing interoperable healthcare data solutions. Lantana has played a leading role in shaping national health IT standards and advancing data exchange to improve healthcare quality, efficiency, and accessibility. Our technical solutions, such as the development of software to acquire healthcare data at scale, combined with rigorous public health, analytic, and clinical data quality expertise, can help states translate ambitious goals into sustainable, scalable systems that support real-world decision-making and long-term rural health outcomes.

What is FHIR?

FHIR is a nationally adopted health data standard that defines how clinical and administrative data are structured and exchanged, enabling systems to share usable, computable information more efficiently.

The disconnect of rural health data across multiple platforms is a key challenge for a continuum of care. As states move towards Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) and other standards-based application programming interfaces (APIs) to enable secure, real-time data exchange across hospitals, health information exchanges (HIEs), public health, and social service systems, workforce capacity and implementation complexity remain key challenges. Lantana's expertise in FHIR-based interoperability, software development, digital quality measures and public health systems positions us as a strategic, technical implementation partner to support large-scale modernization and long-term rural health outcomes.

A Customizable Approach

Lantana supports states in implementing FHIR-first, standards-based interoperability solutions that enable secure, scalable data exchange across clinical care, public health, and community systems. We recognize that modern rural health infrastructure must support not only data exchange, but also measurement, analytics, and decision-making that improve access, quality, and outcomes in rural communities.

We propose a customizable approach that combines 1. FHIR-First Implementation for Scalable Interoperability and 2. Clinical Quality Measurement and Public Health Context as outlined below.

Combined Technical & Public Health Expertise
We merge tailored software development with deep clinical and data quality knowledge.

Customizable, Standards-Based Approach
We implement FHIR-first solutions that enable secure, scalable data exchange.

Data for Decision-Making, Not Just Collection
Our systems support measurement and analytics that improve access, quality, and outcomes.

Adaptive, Future-Proof Architecture
Solutions adapt quickly to changing reporting requirements and emerging public health records.

Automated for Quality and Reliability
We use automated testing, validation, and quality controls to support reliability at scale.

Builds Long-Term State Capability
Our vendor-neutral guidance builds internal capacity that lasts beyond the funding cycle.

FHIR-First Implementation for Scalable Interoperability

FHIR provides the foundation for modern, API-based interoperability. When implemented thoughtfully, it allows systems to exchange data using national standards, reduces dependence on custom interfaces, and supports alignment with initiatives such as United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI).

EFFECTIVE INTEROPERABILITY SOLUTIONS REQUIRE:

- Architecture that can adapt quickly to changing reporting requirements and emerging public health needs, such as new pathogens or pandemics
- Clear governance and alignment to data standards to ensure data are consistently defined, understandable, and reusable
- Modern, standardized security controls that align with multiple federal and industry requirements, including HIPAA
- Automated testing, validation, and data quality controls to support reliability at scale
- Operational workflows and analytics that enable data use, not just collection
- Flexibility to integrate legacy systems, supporting modernization without disruption

Together, these capabilities support large-scale data exchange and near real-time data availability, while allowing systems to evolve as program and policy needs change.

As states aim to mandate Health Level Seven (HL7) FHIR R4+ and USCDI v3 standards for real-time, cross-sector data exchange, and plan to leverage interoperable data streams to power advanced analytics and closed-loop referrals, Lantana's solutions provide security and data governance throughout the data pipeline as well as real-time analytics and reporting to drive decision making.

What is Link?

Link is a Lantana solution designed to streamline public health and quality reporting via automated, standards-based data pipelines that reduce manual reporting burdens, improve data quality, and provide actionable insights for state and federal public health programs.

Turning Measures Into Meaningful Outcomes

Modern interoperability efforts must be informed by how data are used to support public health practice and clinical performance management. Lantana brings deep expertise in clinical quality measurement and public health reporting, including the transition from manual and legacy reporting processes to digital quality measures (dQMs) including electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs) for federal public health and healthcare partners.

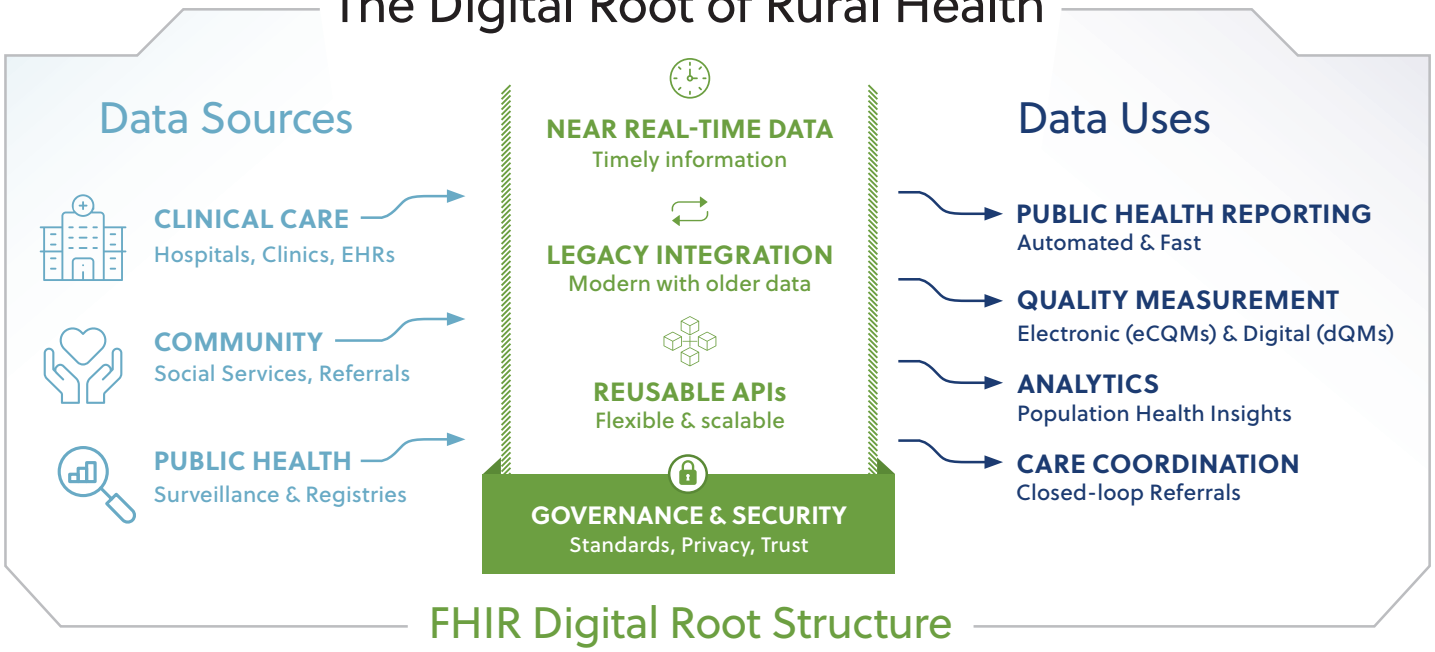
Our teams understand clinical logic, measure specifications, and workflows that support quality reporting, including the use of Clinical Quality Language (CQL) to express measure logic in interoperable, computable formats such as FHIR. This ensures that technical solutions are aligned with real-world clinical workflows, reporting requirements, and population health objectives.

Lantana's approach connects clinical quality measures to measurable public health outcomes through evidence-based implementation.

We work with partners to establish clear linkages between measure performance and population health indicators, enabling tracking improvements in clinical quality metrics (such as screening rates, chronic disease management, and preventive care) which translate into reduced healthcare costs and improved quality of life while also reducing disease burden and improving community health outcomes. Our FHIR-based data infrastructure supports the integration of clinical quality data with public health surveillance systems, creating the analytics foundation needed to demonstrate impact at the population level.

Lantana serves as a vendor-neutral implementation partner, working collaboratively with states, providers, and technology vendors to design and operationalize interoperable software solutions. We support the full lifecycle of implementation, including FHIR-based system design, multi-vendor integration, production-ready data pipelines, and workforce training for long-term sustainability.

FHIR-First Interoperability: The Digital Root of Rural Health



FHIR Digital Root Structure

KEY OUTCOMES: *Faster Reporting | Better Decisions | Sustainable Modernization*

A Clear Path to Sustainable Rural Health Modernization

Partnering with Lantana enables states to translate RHTP funding into tangible, sustainable outcomes. Our approach accelerates the journey from funding award to execution, ensuring states can quickly realize the impact of their visionary rural health initiatives. Our practical, real-world interoperability expertise ensures FHIR-based solutions and data standards function effectively in complex, multi-vendor environments.

By providing vendor-neutral, state-specific guidance, Lantana can expand delivery capacity without creating long-term staffing overhead. Lantana can work with states to define the requirements necessary for success and develop custom, state-specific execution plans that directly support efforts outlined by state applications. We can help translate RHT goals into actionable roadmaps and improve implementation outcomes, all while building internal state capability that persists beyond the funding cycle. This combination of immediate support and long-term capacity building enables states to achieve both short-term and long-term modernization goals, resulting in more connected, efficient, and responsive rural healthcare systems.

The Future of Rural Health Is Interoperable

RHTP presents an opportunity to modernize rural health infrastructure to reduce clinician burden and improve health outcomes. Lantana brings expertise not only in FHIR and health data standards, but also in designing and developing software solutions that operationalize those standards, transforming fragmented health data into usable, interoperable systems. With expertise across public health, analytic, and clinical domains, we can help your state translate RHTP investments into sustainable data infrastructure that improves long-term health of rural Americans.

Contact Us:

Dresden Maxwell
Business Development Manager
dresden.maxwell@lantanagroup.com

Business Credentials and Certifications

DUNS #: 557565814 | CAGE CODE: 4N8M9 | EMPLOYEE-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS | NAICS CODES: 511210, 541511, 541512, 541519, 541611, 541690