

Breakfast with the Chiefs

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Charting a course for eHealth

Ontario Hospital eHealth Council

Breakfast with the Chiefs

Tom Closson, Chair
Ontario Hospital eHealth Council

March 2004



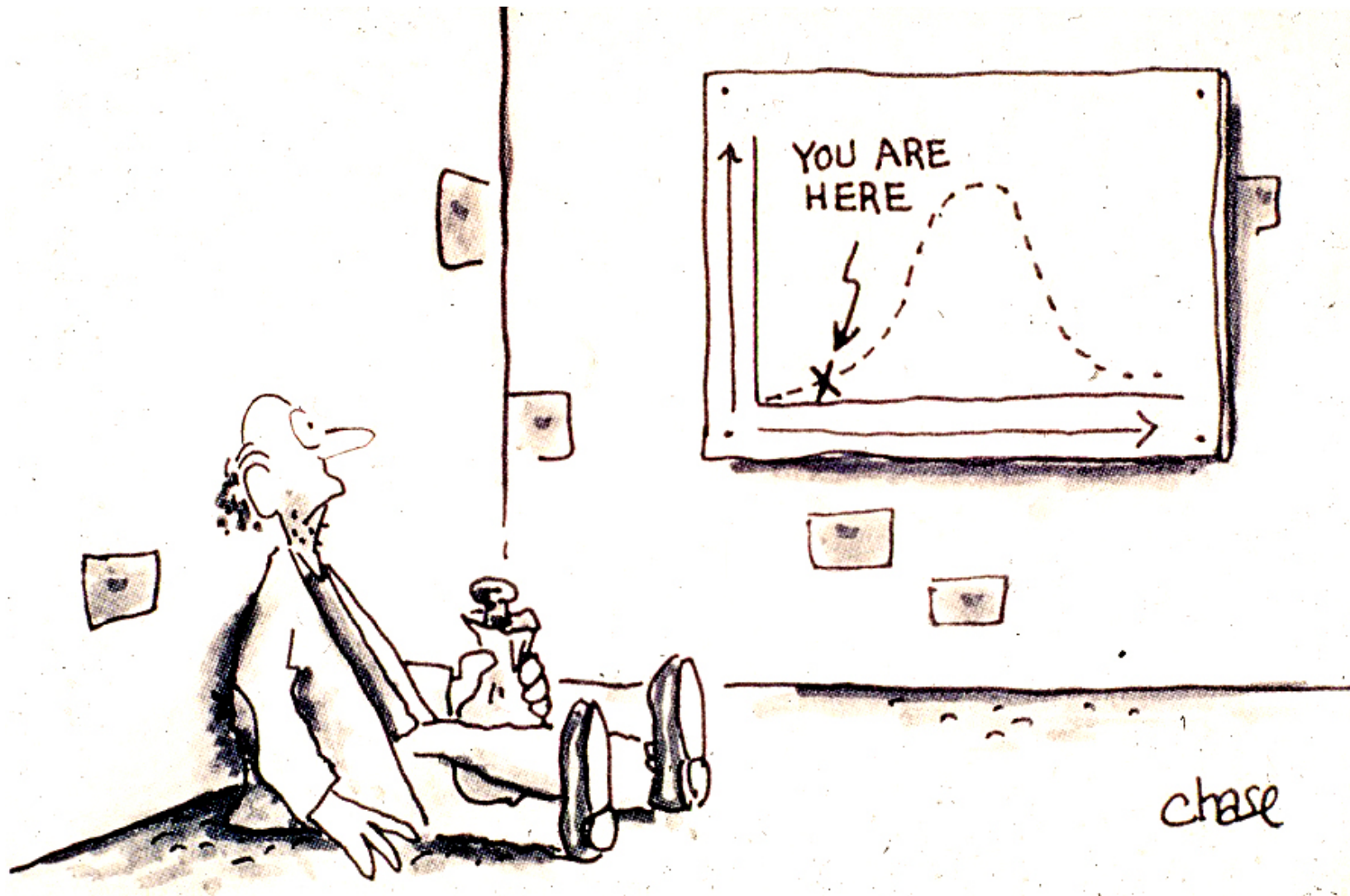
Looking back ...

“There is a lack of a uniform and integrated system for maintaining health records of individuals...

...essential data are scattered in many locations: in physicians' offices, hospital records, clinics, etc.”

Lalonde Report – 1974
A New Perspective on the Health of Canadians

Are We Getting Anywhere?



Today's Challenges

The need to:

- Have common direction, coordinated strategy
- Share information in a private/secure manner
- Share information between providers
- Invest and innovate in health care technology
- Foster & replicate local or regional-based innovations in eHealth
- View ICT investment as an enabler

“Requires education, communication, advocacy & collaboration”

Better Health Care and Public Health Requires... eHealth

“eHealth is a consumer-centred model of health care where stakeholders collaborate utilizing ICTs including Internet technologies to manage health, arrange, deliver, and account for care, and manage the health care system.”

*- Ontario Hospital eHealth Council,
December 2001*

Benefits of eHealth

Quality, Accessibility and Efficiency:

- Improved patient safety (i.e. reduction of medication errors)
- Helps attract & retain human resources
- Consumer empowered wellness programs
- Decreased waiting times due to improved patient data
- Reduced test/lab duplication
- Enhanced coordination & development of health care system –clinical and non clinical
- Better planning \$ population health management
- Reduced duplication of services

“Helping patients, providers and organizations”

Federal Perspectives

Romanow (2002):

- *“ Provinces and territories, health regions, and health care providers understand and support the need to make better, more effective use of information technology in addressing a number of challenges in today’s health care system”*

Kirby(2002):

- *“Long-term investment in information and communication technology, including an eHR system, will allow the collection of more timely and better information on access to care, quality delivery, system performance and patients’ outcomes.”*

The Federal Government & eHealth: Canada Health Infoway (CHI)

CHI:

- Now has \$1.1 billion in investment capital (thank you Romanow)
- Created in response to a commitment of Canada's First Ministers to "work together to strengthen a Canada-wide health infostructure to improve quality, access and timeliness of health care for Canadians"
- Basic elements of interoperable EHR solutions in place in half of all Canadian jurisdictions by 2010
- *Infoway* has identified **six investment programs**. These include the five key building blocks for EHR solutions and telehealth:
 - Infostructure, Registries, Drug Information, Diagnostic Imaging Systems, Laboratory Information Systems
- Ontario is well aligned / positioned to benefit

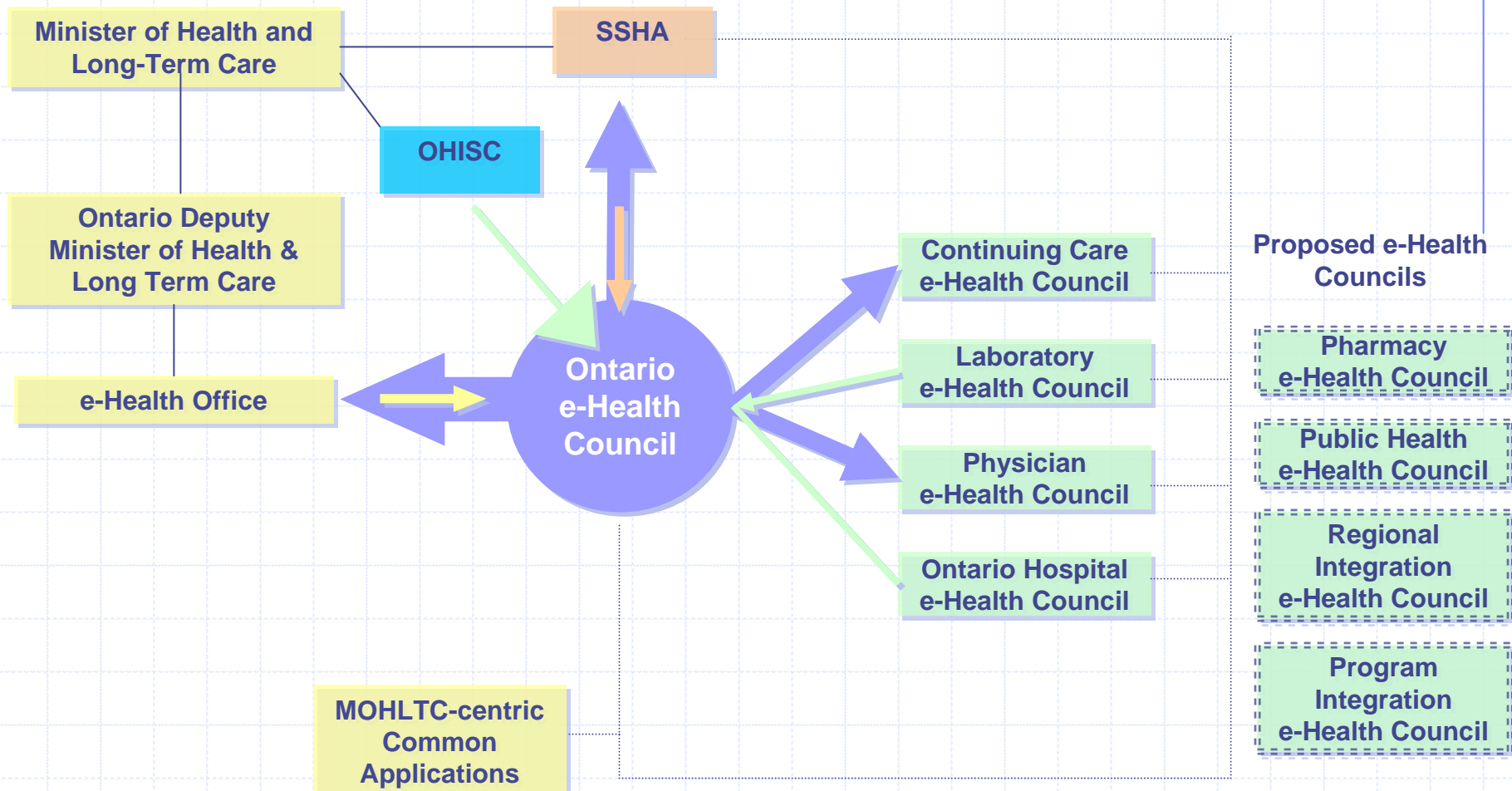
The Province & eHealth

- Developed an eHealth strategy in **partnership** with key stakeholders
- Developed a **governance framework** to coordinate and integrate eHealth strategies
- Begun to deploy a secure way to **share information and communicate** with healthcare professionals across the province
- Invested in a set of **key initiatives** which will build the eHealth capacity of the healthcare delivery system and create the foundation for an electronic health record for Ontario
- Created the **Ontario eHealth Council** chaired by the Ministry's CIO, provides eHealth leadership

The Province & eHealth *(Continued)*

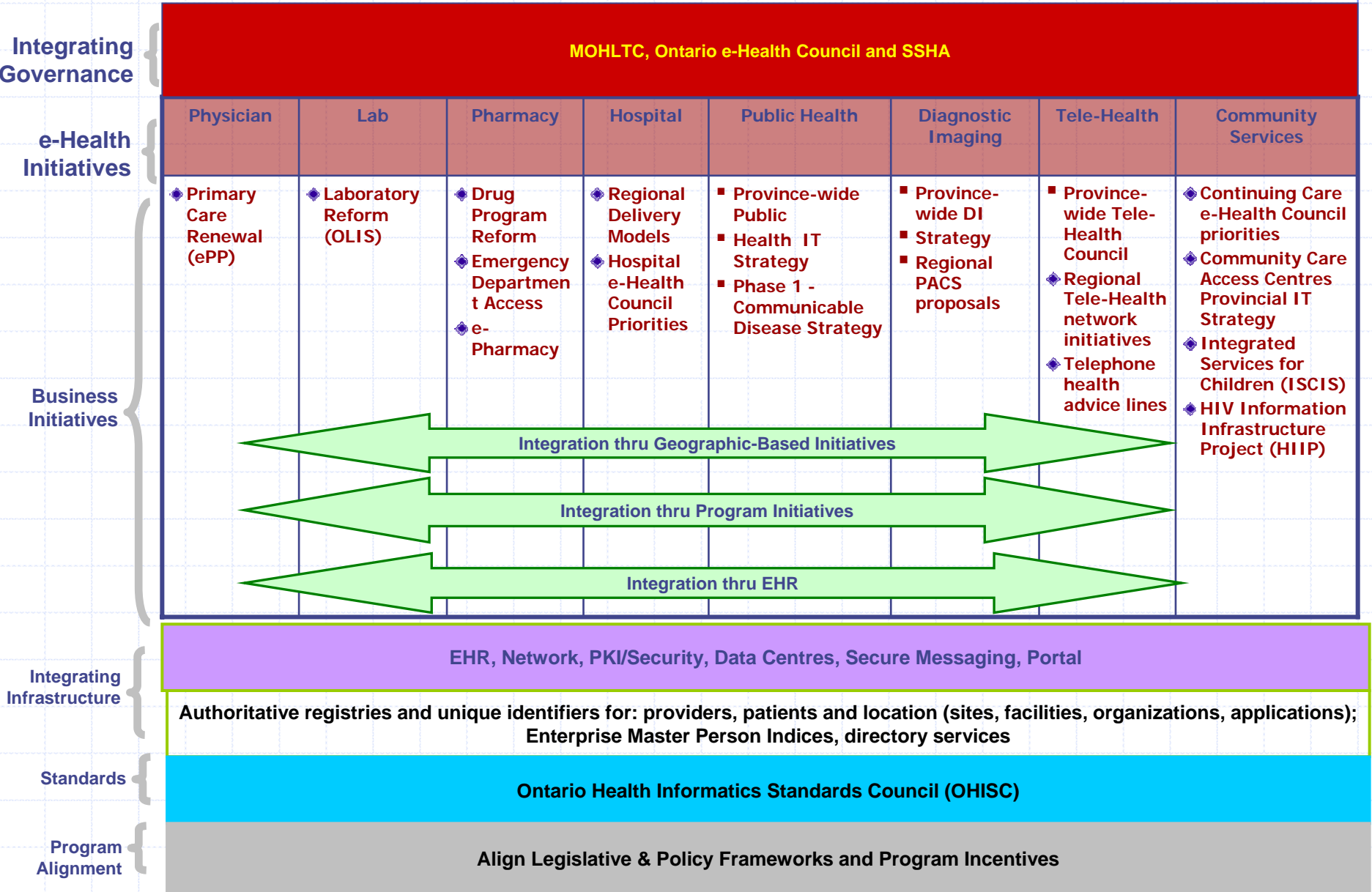
- Established an **eHealth Office** to ensure coordination, integration and monitor delivery of all eHealth initiatives
- Created the **Ontario Health Informatics Standards Council (OHISC)** that recommends data and technology standards to the Minister
- Developing **funding strategies** to support all eHealth initiatives
- Developing a **framework for integrating** all eHealth initiatives

Provincial Governance & Accountability



A collaborative approach is key to the successful implementation of e-Health in Ontario

Provincial e-Health Strategy



The Ontario Hospital eHealth Council (HeHC)

HeHC's mission:

- Provide hospital industry leadership in eHealth and support the implementation of eHealth solutions which can improve health outcomes and the management and delivery of care across the entire health system
- Members consist of over 80 volunteers, including many CEOs and CIOs currently working in the hospital environment

Future strategy:

- Leadership role in identifying hospital system eHealth initiatives and ensuring that leading practices in eHealth which evolve at a regional level are supported, shared and implemented across the entire hospital sector

Progress of the HeHC

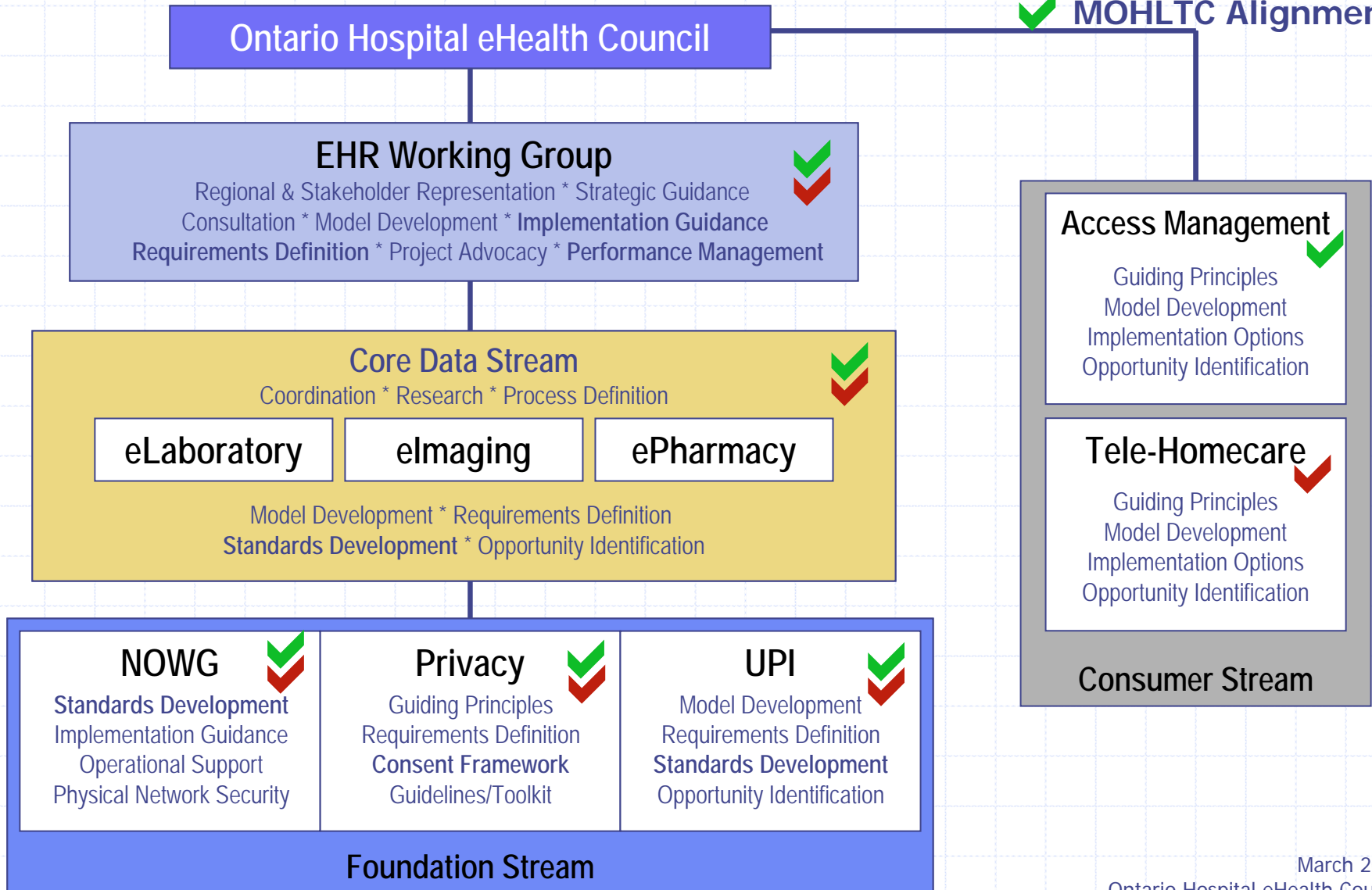
2001 (Dec): Council established

2002: eHealth Update Launch, Ontario eHealth Blueprint and Strategic Agenda, First Working Groups Launched

2003: Core white papers/products: EHR Vision, UPI Concept Document, eLibrary, Network Operations Technical Standards, Privacy & Security Guidelines, ePharmacy

HeHC Working Groups (New Phase)

 **Infoway Alignment**
 **MOHLTC Alignment**



2004 HeHC Initiatives

Electronic Health Records

- Develop & launch of an annual ICT assessment tool that focuses on how information flows & how ICT investments are impacting patient care. This tool will help to establish benchmarks, determine leaders, and assess ePR/eHR readiness

Privacy

- Identify key requirements in Bill 31 affecting hospital information flow & develop an educational tool to support implementation. Partnership with OHA

UPI

- Provide detailed hospital UPI requirements and design criteria to feed into the Province-wide UPI. EMPI structures within hospitals will also be investigated

2004 HeHC Core Initiatives cont:

Technical Specifications & Standards

- Support technical, security, and interoperability issues with respect to the evolution of the SSHA infrastructure & OHSIC standards

Access Management

- Lead the development of access management principles, design criteria and identify a technology solution

Home Telehealth

- Lead development of an over-arching HTH framework for pilot projects & long term sustainability of HTH applications

Regional Development

- Facilitate hospital-based ICT strategy/planning sessions, and develop an over-arching strategy to support integration & evolution of regional delivery models

Recent Developments

Transforming Health Care in Ontario: Minister of Health and Long Term Care
Feb 2004, Economic Club of Toronto:

'Information technology will be a major enabler because it allows health providers to talk to each other and share information ...'

'Health information technology integration will be put in forward gear ...'

- Priorities: reducing wait times, improving access to the primary health care team and making Ontarians healthier
- Four change strategies on financial footing, accountability, community health care services, health promotion

Technology is the enabler.

The course ahead:

- Refinement of sectoral council roles, sector integration and alignment of Provincial & federal strategy
- Minister Smitherman's ICT/design implications of "transforming health care"
- Hospital eHealth Council forges ahead

www.oha.com/info/ehealth

The image is a promotional graphic for the Ontario Hospital eHealth Council. It features a dark blue background with a stylized map of Ontario in the lower half. On the left, a female doctor in a white lab coat and a young girl in a pink shirt are sitting on a white, curved surface, looking at each other. A glowing pink line starts from the girl and curves upwards and to the right, ending near the text. The text on the right side includes the council's name, its tagline, and a paragraph describing its mission.

ONTARIO HOSPITAL
ehealth
COUNCIL

Advocating for eHealth Solutions Across Ontario

The Ontario Hospital eHealth Council is providing leadership to the hospital community by advocating for the implementation of eHealth solutions that will ultimately improve health outcomes and the delivery of health care across the entire system

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