



Good evening, everyone.

It is a great pleasure to have been chosen for this award. Thank you for your recognition of the work of CHCANYS and the federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) we represent and serve.

We have partnered with the New York eHealth Collaborative since 2008 on many different projects to support FQHCs in achieving health information exchange and Meaningful Use. Thank you, NYeC.

Through one of our most recent collaborations, the Data Exchange Incentive Program, 30 FQHCs, nearly half of all FQHCs in our state, will receive funding to support their connections to RHIOs and enable the transmission of data from their EHRs. An additional 15 FQHCs are already connected, bringing the total to 75%. This kind of progress is possible only through collaboration and we are deeply grateful for the partnership of NYeC, New York State, the FQHCs, and the RHIOs.

The FQHC program celebrated its 50th anniversary this year, born during the War on Poverty. We are very proud of New York's FQHCs. They serve 2 million patients, in over 600 locations, and deliver primary, behavioral health, dental and other life-changing care to New Yorkers in underserved communities. One-fifth of our patients are uninsured; over half are covered by Medicaid; and approximately 70% are below the federal poverty level. FQHCs have been leaders in the provision of patient-centered care, adoption of health IT, ongoing efforts to improve care quality and patient outcomes and community outreach to improve population health. They embrace change and are always among the "early adopters" of new practices and technologies. Many of them are represented here tonight. If you are from an FQHC, could you please raise your hand?

We are also very proud of the accomplishments of CHCANYS. Recognizing the ever more important role of data, analytics and technology in supporting better care, healthier people and smarter spending, our CEO, Elizabeth Swain, decided to combine CHCANYS' Clinical Quality Improvement and Health IT Programs in 2014. It has been my privilege to lead this program. We have been able to bring millions of dollars of grant-funded technical assistance to health centers statewide, partnering with many different funders. We also launched CHCANYS's data warehouse and reporting solution, the Center for Primary Care Informatics (the CPCI) to provide FQHCs with information they need to maximize their improvement efforts and benchmark performance with peers. Since 2012, we have connected nearly 50 of our 64 FQHCs to the CPCI and are engaged in continuous enhancements to the tool with our technology partner, Azara Healthcare.

I would like to thank a visionary boss, Elizabeth Swain, who talked me down off the ledge more than once as we built our program. I hope she knows how much her faith in me has meant these past 8 years. Thank you also to my very talented and hard-working colleagues who are here tonight, Dr. Diane Ferran and Amy Grandov. And finally, to my family who are here tonight -- my mom, Isobel, my husband, David, and two of my children, Sarah and Jason -- thank you for your patience with me as I have tried to juggle and achieve that elusive work/life balance. I love you.

On behalf of CHCANYS, thank you again for this honor.