

## CCSNPC Selects Orion Health for Chatham County Health Information Exchange Pilot



By [Anshu Shrivastava](#), TMCnet Contributor

Savannah, Ga.-based [Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council](#) reportedly [selected Orion Health](#) to build the Chatham County Health Information Exchange Pilot to serve more than 250,000 people in the Southeast Coastal Georgia County.

CCSNPC is a collaboration consisting of providers, government, representatives, advocates, funders, and consumers. It assists the Chatham County Commission in developing a healthcare infrastructure that leverages available resources and maximizes strong local partnerships to improve access to and efficiency of healthcare services.

The Council aims to address the health care needs of the uninsured and underinsured through ongoing collaboration and evaluation to deliver improved patient outcomes. It plans to do that through increased access to care, enhanced capacity and improved efficiency within the community's safety net system.

It has recognized that a critical piece in achieving these goals is to establish a health information exchange -- beginning with a pilot project connecting one major hospital emergency department and one Federally Qualified Health Center in the county.

Chatham County is one of more than 11 HIEs of which Orion Health's technology is a large contributing component. The HIE solution from Orion Health creates an infrastructure, enabling secure electronic exchange of health information among the Chatham County care providers, said company officials.

Company officials said that Orion Health Rhapsody Integration Engine software provides data exchange, messaging and public health reporting from the data store, while the Orion Health Concerto Portal provides a Web-based portal for Safety Net providers and more.

Dr. Paula Reynolds, MPH, executive director at CCSNPC, said that after reviewing several other vendor's products, "we saw that Orion Health was able to provide an end-to-end solution to implement a world class, complete HIE infrastructure, scalable to our Pilot Project needs, but capable of expansion to grow with our communities needs."

"Orion's solution allows us to extend the opportunity to participate in our system to providers with virtually any of the EMR systems currently available and to be prepared to communicate with other HIE's which may be developed in other communities in Georgia, including a state-wide HIE," Reynolds said.

"By partnering with Initiate Systems ([News - Alert](#)) on this project we were able to provide Chatham County an HIE that includes e-prescribing and is also conscious of budgetary and resource challenges while being managed by minimal internal resources," said Paul Viskovich, president of North America and EMEA Operations at Orion Health.

*Anshu Shrivastava is a contributing editor for TMCnet. To read more of Anshu's articles, please visit her [columnist page](#).*

Edited by [Amy Tierney](#)