In the NIC of Time:
Six Months of Progress for the National Interoperability Collaborative

The National Interoperability Collaborative (NIC) is designed to increase collaboration among the sectors that impact health and well-being by improving information-sharing, interoperability and the use of modern technology. NIC has made considerable progress since it was launched in June 2017 at the 12th Annual National Symposium of the Stewards of Change Institute.

SOCI and AcademyHealth are the organizational leaders of NIC, which is being built with $1.2 million in seed funding from The Kresge Foundation, with additional support from **IBM, Microsoft and the Annie E. Casey Foundation**. NIC's initial partners are the Health and Human Services agencies of California, Connecticut and Virginia; the Silicon Valley Regional Data Trust in California; and the Healthcare Information Management and Systems Society (HIMSS).

NIC is engaged in an interoperability-related initiative with each of its partners, primarily focused on the heroin/opioid crisis, early childhood education and development, education more broadly, or shaping information-sharing agreements across domains, programs and jurisdictions. In addition, we've begun creating case studies as part of NIC's work with our partners. In addition, AcademyHealth is conducting **an environmental scan of existing guidance about interoperability** (which we'll release this March), including a literature review and interviews with subject matter experts. Down the line, we are also planning to publish a comprehensive white paper with best practices, recommendations and next steps.

The environmental scan will be released at the first major NIC event, titled "**A Symposium in the NIC of Time: Advancing Information-Sharing in California and Beyond**." It will be held March 26-27 in Sacramento, underwritten by the **Chan Zuckerberg Initiative** and organized by SOCI in collaboration with AcademyHealth, the **California Health and Human Services Agency** and the **Silicon Valley Regional Data Trust**. Attendees will be connected to key programmatic and thought leaders from around the U.S.; will hear about pioneering interoperability efforts; and will learn about leading-edge activities across five domains that impact health and well-being.

Among the highlights of the event will be a couple of important "unveilings." The first is the official launch of an initiative we're particularly excited about, the **InterOptimability Training Curriculum and Certification** program; we'll showcase ITCC's first two modules, on achieving InterOptimability (think Interoperability + Optimization) and on privacy and confidentiality (developing secure, effective cross-jurisdiction information-sharing agreements). We'll also show display our two new websites – **NIC's portal**, through which we'll facilitate collaborations; highlight innovative projects; and share a broad range of information; and an **updated SOCI site**.

There's much more that we've been doing, from NIC-related presentations at conferences, the most recent at the IJIS Institute's Opioid Technology Summit, to a webinar with the Strategic Health Information Exchange Collaborative (SHIEC). To learn more and find out about how to get involved, go http://www.academyhealth.org/NIC or write to NIC@stewardsofchange.com.