



HIMSS Katrina Phoenix Project

Tropical storm Katrina began to move toward the Florida panhandle on August 23, 2005, and it grew to a hurricane-level intensity, causing severe damage to Louisiana, coastal Mississippi and neighboring states. On Monday, August 29, 2005, the Category 5 Hurricane swept through, causing massive damage and losses to both urban and rural areas. The city of New Orleans was hit particularly hard as waters flooded the city and neighboring areas. The storm was responsible for millions of dollars worth in damage, and thousands of lives, making it one of the costliest natural disasters in United States history.

The flooding, storms and subsequent water damage caused damage to medical practices and facilities, in many cases destroying patients' medical records beyond repair. Turning priority to providing medical care to community residents first, many healthcare organizations were unable to put time and resources to salvaging and rebuilding archives and databases of medical records.

Turning good intentions into contributions, with physician mentors as its strength, distinguishes the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Katrina Phoenix project. Alice Loveys, MD, pediatrician and 2004 HIMSS Davies Award of Excellence recipient, was devastated by news reports of children with cancer whose chemotherapy regimens were disrupted, and no records were available to assist with next steps. A call to Pat Wise, HIMSS, VP, Health Information Systems, with the question, "This is 2005, and we are the leaders in health information technology... What can we do to make this situation better?". From this was born the HIMSS Katrina Phoenix project. In action since September, 2005, the Katrina Phoenix Advisory Board was drawn together as a multi-disciplinary team to organize vendor donations for electronic health record (EHR) software and hardware, as well as services for practices decimated by Hurricane Katrina losing thousands of paper records each. HIMSS volunteer physician mentors, vendors, and state Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) representatives are assisting EHR implementations in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

Never before has a project been more successful from teamwork than HIMSS Katrina Phoenix. The Electronic Health Records Vendors Association (EHRVA) stepped up to the plate and provided EHR donations to practices in need. The Katrina Phoenix Advisory Board developed qualifying criteria for practices to receive assistance, with the QIOs acting as "feet on the ground", identifying and screening practices, and conducting workflow assessments and hardware inventories. The Advisory Board assisted in matching appropriate vendor gifts to practices. While the HIMSS Foundation, the

philanthropic arm of HIMSS, has provided grants to more than 50% of the practices receiving assistance. With the assistance of HIMSS physician mentors guiding identified physicians and practices through the transition process from paper to digital, adoption of health information technology, reconstitution of practices, and newly converted believers in EHRs have been realized.

Vendors Supporting Katrina Phoenix

- [A4 Health Systems](#)
- [Case Notes, an integrated electronic shared care records system from CSW](#)
- [Companion Technologies](#)
- [Greenway Medical Technologies](#)
- [Health Language, Inc.](#)
- [InteGreat Concepts, Inc.](#)
- [JMJ Technologies' EncounterPro](#)
- [Lakes Health Systems' MerCure](#)
- [MD Synergy, Inc's Synerios](#)
- [MedcomSoft](#)
- [MedicAlert Foundation](#)
- [MediNotes Corporation](#)
- [Medpracticeflow.com](#)
- [MedQuist](#)
- [Misys Healthcare Systems](#)
- [Optimal Practice Solutions, LLC](#)
- [Optimize I.T.](#)
- [Practice Partner](#)
- [REDmedic, Inc.](#)

- [SOAPware EMR](#)
- [Sobha Renaissance Information Technology](#)
- [TeleVital, Inc.](#)
- [True North Technology](#)

Advisory Board Members currently serving as Mentors

- Steven Arnold, MD, MS, Healthcare/EHR Consultant
- Chris Williams, Project Lead, DOQ-IT, Louisiana Health Care Review (LA QIO)
- Gary M Klein, MD, MBA, MPH, CHS-V
- Alice Loveys, MD, Pediatrics @ The Basin
- Information and Quality Healthcare (MS QIO)
 - Lynn Mitchell
 - Trannie Murphy, RHIA, CCS
 - Trey Palmer, MBA
- James Morrow, MD, VP & CIO, North Fulton Family Medicine
- Kevin Whitehead, Project Director, Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation (AL QIO)

Advisory Board Membership

- Aschuler Associates
- American College of Physicians
- American Health Quality Association
- eHealth Initiative
- Louisiana Health Care Review
- Glen Falls Hospital
- American Medical Association
- Evans Medical Group
- Pediatrics @ The Basin
- Information and Quality Healthcare (MS QIO)
- North Fulton Family Medicine
- University of Rochester Medical Center
- Zarb Consulting
- Alabama Quality Assurance

More about Healthcare Information Technology

[What is an Electronic Health Record \(EHR\)?](#)

[Ambulatory Care and Healthcare Technology](#)

[Wireless Technology](#)

[Personal Health Records](#)

[Integration and Interoperability](#)

Press Releases

[Katrina Phoenix Donor Solicitation Letter - *Other Pubs* \(4/24/2006\)](#)

Related Links

[Common Ground Health Clinic](#)

[HIMSS Foundation](#)

[HIMSS Electronic Health Record Vendors Association](#)

Katrina Phoenix Project Tools

[Value of HIT, Post-Katrina - Christy Valentine, MD HIMSS Katrina Phoenix and HIMSS Foundation beneficiary - *Presentation* \(11/15/2007\)](#)

[HIMSS Katrina Phoenix – Top Ten Lessons Learned - *Fact Sheet* \(11/2/2007\)](#)

[Katrina Phoenix FAQs - *Fact Sheet* \(3/8/2007\)](#)

[Katrina Phoenix Project Status \(Powerpoint presentation\) - *Other Pubs* \(2/16/2007\)](#)

[Lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina - *Other Pubs* \(2/13/2007\)](#)

[Katrina Phoenix Press Release - *Other Pubs* \(4/27/2006\)](#)

[Katrina Phoenix Donor Solicitation Letter - *Other Pubs* \(4/24/2006\)](#)

United State Senate Honors VA Employees

[\(Press Release from U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs\) - *Other Pubs* \(10/3/2005\)](#)