Assignment Overview: This assignment is designed to develop your understanding of Glaser and Salzberg’s four-vector framework for aligning IT Strategy.

Background Information: In their book, “The Strategic Application of Information Technology in Health Care Organizations”, John Glaser and Claudia Salzberg define four vectors on which an organization’s IT Strategy should be based:

1. **Organizational Strategies** – IT should support and be aligned with the organization’s overall strategy. In particular, the following questions should be answered:
   a. What is our organization’s strategic goal?
   b. Can IT accomplish this?
   c. If so, how?
   d. How will we know if we are successful?

2. **Continuous Improvement** – IT should aim to improve existing processes and information requirements. In particular, the following questions should be answered:
   a. What are our core processes and information needs?
   b. What is our current status versus our needs?
   c. How can IT bridge the gap?
   d. How will we know if we are successful?

3. **New Technologies** – In order to maintain a strategic and operational advantage, new technologies must be considered. In particular, the following questions should be answered:
   a. What new technologies are on the horizon?
   b. Would they allow us to advance our strategic position or improve our core processes?
   c. If so, how?
   d. How will we know if we are successful?

4. **Strategic Trajectory** – IT should support and be aligned with the organization’s current strategy, as well as maintain flexibility to support future strategic options. In particular, the following questions should be answered:
   a. What organizational strategic changes are on the medium-term horizon?
   b. What do we need to do to start preparing for those changes?
   c. Is our IT strategy consistent with these changes?
   d. If not, what must we do to make it adaptable to these changes?
Assignment:
Consider Rhode Island's 2013-2015 Strategic Plan for Preconception Health found at http://www.health.ri.gov/publications/strategicplans/2013RhodeIslandPreconceptionHealth2015.pdf. Be prepared to discuss each of the following questions, incorporating cited outside information as necessary.

1. How could IT be used to help achieve Rhode Island's 2013-2015 stated Strategic Plan?
2. Consider Rhode Island's current information exchange: http://www.health.ri.gov/projects/healthinformationexchange/. How could IT bridge the gap between its current status and Rhode Island's stated preconception health needs?
3. What new technologies exist or are in development that would allow Rhode Island to advance its strategic preconception health goals?
4. What potential changes with respect to the Affordable Care Act should Rhode Island's governmental IT strategy address with respect to preconception health?
5. On which (possibly multiple) of the four Glaser/Salzberg vectors should Rhode Island's IT strategy be most strongly based? Offer a concise justification as to why these vectors are the most significant in this strategic environment.
6. Briefly develop an IT strategy using the vector(s) specified in Question 5. Offer a concise justification as to why this strategy would help achieve the desired organizational objectives. Reference specific IT solutions we have discussed when appropriate.