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Rhode Island Quality Institute CEO Appointed to AHIC Successor, Inc. Board of Directors
RIQI's Laura Adams to help define national strategies for effective, interoperable nationwide health information system in the US

PROVIDENCE, RI (September 24, 2008) – AHIC Successor, Inc. today announced the appointment of Laura Adams, president and CEO, Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI), to its Board of Directors. AHIC Successor is an independent, sustainable public-private enterprise whose role is to bring together the best of the public, non-profit and private sectors into a trusted, purpose-driven organization for the creation and use of a secure interoperable nationwide health information system. The new organization is being established in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a successor to the American Health Information Community (AHIC), a federal advisory committee that will soon be dissolving.

The Board of Directors will be immediately tasked with defining the strategies by which the organization will fulfill its mission to develop a unified approach in creating an effective, interoperable nationwide health information system in the United States. The Board members were chosen on the basis of four criteria: board experience, ability to work by structured consensus, thought leadership, and strategic experience.

Adams is a nationally recognized leader in health IT and quality improvement and has served as President and CEO of RIQI since 2002. RIQI is a collaboration of the top leadership of health care stakeholders in Rhode Island working together to transform the health care system in the state and led the state's effort as a national beta test site of the SureScripts' electronic prescribing system. RIQI is currently leading and coordinating multiple initiatives to promote the adoption and full use of health information technology and health information exchange throughout Rhode Island.

"AHIC Successor will be a national catalyst and an "enabler" to achieve the benefits of health information technology," said Adams. "This is both a great honor and a great responsibility to serve on the board of an organization that intends to be a strong force in advancing health care quality, safety and value through information technology."

Adams is a faculty member of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) in Boston and has been since its inception. She directed the IHI/VHA Idealized Design of the Intensive Care Unit project and is a long-time faculty member of VHA's Transforming the Intensive Care Unit initiative. She led the governance consulting for the Improving Performance in Practice (IPIP) Initiative, a Robert Wood Johnson-funded collaborative initiative of the American Board of Medical Specialties, and the Boards and Societies of Internal Medicine, Family Physicians and Pediatrics.

"We are pleased to have the participation of such a distinguished group of individuals from both the public and private sectors who are committed to the successful integration and use of health IT in the United States," said John Tooker, M.D., M.B.A., Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of the American College of Physicians and one of the three original incorporators of AHIC Successor. "The Board's leadership and insights from across the health care, IT, academic, and consumer communities will be invaluable as our members collaborate on

the development of implementation strategies for a standards-based, interoperable health IT system that ensures confidentiality, privacy, and security for patients.”

The initial three signatories to the incorporation—John Glaser, Ph.D., Vice President and Chief Information Officer, Partners HealthCare System, Inc.; Jonathan Perlin, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Medical Officer and President, Clinical Services, Hospital Corporation of America; and Dr. Tooker—will also participate as Board members for the first year, after which they will step down without replacement.

The current AHIC, which is scheduled to complete its work by the end of 2008, advises HHS on how to accelerate the development and adoption of health information technology.

Widespread adoption of health information technology will improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of health care by enabling the exchange of relevant patient information to better manage health information and care. When used with appropriate safeguards that protect confidentiality and privacy, health IT can enable comprehensive management of medical information and its secure exchange between health care consumers, providers, and other relevant parties. Health IT enables improvements at the point of care, broader public health improvements, and more efficient and effective data collection and analysis by researchers to improve quality and affordability of care.

For more information about AHIC Successor and background on the Board appointees, please visit www.ahicsuccessor.org.

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The Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI) is a statewide collaboration of hospitals, physicians, nurses, health insurers, consumers, business, government and academia working together to significantly improve health care in Rhode Island. Founded in 2001, the RIQI's strategic focus includes building a statewide health care information exchange and interoperability and ensuring the adoption of Electronic Health Records (EHRs) as the foundation for continual improvement in the quality of care. The RIQI is leveraging RI's unique characteristics (small size, line of sight trust, and governmental accessibility) to demonstrate how the health care system can be improved through collaborative innovation. For more information, visit www.riqi.org.