



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Kevin Gould
401-487-2152
kgould@advocacysolutionsllc.com

RIQI PRESENTS \$10K STRIDE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION GRANT TO EAST BAY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

Funding to support adoption of electronic medical record system to help improve patient care for East Bay residents

NEWPORT, RI, February 25, 2009 – The Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI) today presented a \$10K grant from the Herbert E. and Daisy A. Stride Memorial Foundation to the East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP). The grant will support the adoption of an electronic medical record (EMR) system to help improve the quality and safety of patient care for the diverse populations served by EBCAP's Community Health Centers.

EBCAP's Community Health Centers provide affordable health care to Newport County, Bristol County and East Providence residents. Services offered include family medicine, pregnancy testing, immunizations, care for acute illness, health screenings and general community education and referrals.

"This Stride Memorial Foundation grant to East Bay Community Action Program has been an important part of our conversion to an electronic medical record," said Dennis Roy, CEO, EBCAP. "Having a certified EMR has enabled EBCAP to enhance patient care at our health centers as well as provide our professional staff with complete diagnosis and treatment information. We greatly appreciate the leadership of the Rhode Island Quality Institute in advancing statewide EMR adoption and for helping us secure this important funding."

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. RIQI's strategic focus includes building a statewide health care information exchange and interoperability and ensuring the adoption of EMRs as the foundation for continual improvement in the quality of care.

Use of EMRs has proven effective in the effort to improve the safety, quality and value of healthcare delivered by clinicians. Although the value of EMRs is undisputed, many providers and community health centers, especially those serving low income populations, are often unable to afford them.

"We are delighted to assist EBCAP with their relentless efforts to provide the safest, highest quality care for their patients," said Laura Adams, President and CEO, RIQI. "This grant from the Stride Memorial Foundation will help improve the quality of health care for thousands of East Bay residents and is helping us advance the efforts of RIQI to achieve widespread adoption of electronic health records throughout the state."

In addition to helping manage the statewide strategy for adoption of EMRs, RIQI has been designated by the State of Rhode Island to manage **currentcare**, Rhode Island's Health Information Exchange (HIE). When fully developed, **currentcare** will electronically link doctors, hospitals, nursing homes, and community health centers throughout Rhode Island.

President of the Senate M. Teresa Paiva Weed (D – Dist. 13, Newport, Jamestown) said, "By providing funding to support an electronic medical record at the East Bay Community Action Program, this grant also helps further position Rhode Island as a national leader in the effective use of health information technology. Electronic medical records, and the safe, secure exchange of health information among providers through the voluntary health information exchange network, are important components in the effort to improve the safety, quality and value of patient care in Rhode Island."

The Rhode Island Health Information Exchange Act of 2008—passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor in 2008—takes effect in March and will provide critical safeguards for consumers and providers who use **currentcare**. Many of these safeguards go well beyond existing state and federal privacy and data security protections. The legislation was sponsored by Senate President Paiva Weed and Representative Peter F. Kilmartin (D-Dist. 61, Pawtucket).

For more information on **currentcare**, visit www.currentcareri.com.

###

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.

East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP) is a private, nonprofit 501 (c) (3) corporation that provides a wide array of health and human services to the residents of Rhode Island's east bay including the municipalities of East Providence, Barrington, Warren, Bristol, Little Compton, Tiverton, Portsmouth, Middletown, Newport and Jamestown. For more information, visit www.ebcap.org.