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Rhode Island Quality Institute Appoints Ernest A. Almonte to its Board of Directors

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND—The Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI), a not-for-profit, multi-stakeholder group working to transform the healthcare system in Rhode Island, announced today the appointment of Ernest A. Almonte, Chief Visionary Officer of the Almonte Group, LLC and former Auditor General of the State of Rhode Island to its Board of Directors.

Mr. Almonte has over 33 years of experience in the accounting profession and held the position of Auditor General of the State of Rhode Island from 1994 to 2010. In addition to being a Certified Public Accountant, he is also certified in Financial Forensics, a Certified Government Financial Manager, a Certified Information Technology Professional, and a Certified Fraud Examiner. Mr. Almonte has been active in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and currently serves as Past Chairman of the organization as well as Chairman Elect of the National Financial Literacy Commission. Appointed by the Secretary of Defense as the State of Rhode Island Chairman of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Mr. Almonte currently serves as Chairman on the Department of Defense Audit Committee.

“Ernie is extremely well respected and highly regarded for his extensive knowledge and experience in his field as well as for his commitment to Rhode Island,” said Laura Adams, President and CEO, Rhode Island Quality Institute. “We are honored and delighted to have him join our Board of Directors.”

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Mr. Almonte joins the following Board members:

James E. Purcell, Chair, Chairman of the Board, Rhode Island Quality Institute
Yul D. Ejnes, MD, FACP, 2012 Chair-Elect, ACP Board of Regents, Rhode Island Medical Society
Laura L. Adams, President, President and CEO, Rhode Island Quality Institute
Richard H. Leclerc, Secretary, President and CEO, Gateway Healthcare, Inc.
Mark Reynolds, Treasurer, Chief Executive Officer, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island
Peter Andruszkiewicz, President and CEO of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island
Raymond L. Bandusky, Executive Director, Rhode Island Disability Law Center (RIDLC)
Richard W. Besdine, MD, Professor of Medicine, Director, Center for Gerontology and Healthcare Research, Brown University; Director, Division of Geriatrics in the Department of Medicine; Chief of Geriatrics at Lifespan; Greer Professor of Geriatric Medicine
Troyen A. Brennan, M.D., M.P.H., Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, CVS Caremark
Nitin S. Damle, MD, FACP, Internist, South County Internal Medicine, Inc.
Stephen J. Farrell, Chief Executive Officer, United Healthcare of New England, Inc.
Marie Ghazal, RN, CEO, Rhode Island Free Clinic
Bernadette R. Hawes, Customer Service Supervisor, Astro-Med Inc.
H. John Keimig, MHA, FACHE, Chief Executive Officer, Quality Partners of Rhode Island
Dennis Keefe, President and CEO of Care New England
Christopher F. Koller, Health Insurance Commissioner, State of Rhode Island (*ex-officio*)
G. Alan Kurose, MD, President and CEO of Coastal Medical
Jeanne R. Lieb, Senior Vice President Information Services of FM Global
Maria Montanaro, President, M. Montanaro Consulting
James Roosevelt Jr., President and CEO, Tufts Health Plan
George A. Vecchione, President and CEO, Lifespan
Laurie White, President, Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce

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About the Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI)

Founded in 2001, the Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI) is a collaboration of leaders in the Rhode Island community who share the intent to substantively improve the healthcare system in the state. The collaboration includes CEOs of hospitals, health insurers, and businesses, along with leaders of consumer groups, academia, and government. RIQI's mission is to significantly improve the quality, safety, and value of health care in Rhode Island. RIQI is the Governor-designated sole Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) for Rhode Island, chosen to coordinate the statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE). As the RHIO, RIQI is charged with bringing together health care stakeholders within the state and governing HIE among them for the purpose of improving health outcomes in the community. For more information, visit www.RIQI.org.