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Innovation

Rhode Islanders chosen to serve on national innovation panel



FOUR Rhode Islanders were selected to serve on the Innovation Advisors program of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. COURTESY CMS.GOV

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PROVIDENCE – Four Rhode Islanders were selected to serve on the Innovation Advisors program of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The program, launched in October 2011, will allow each of the selected advisors to work with the CMS to test new models of health care delivery in their own organizations and communities. The program's goal is to improve care and reduce costs for patients.

The four Rhode Islanders include: Jean Sanders of Aquidneck Medical Associates in Newport; Nancy Roberts of the Kent County Visiting Nurse Association in Warwick; Dr. Betty Vohr of Women & Infants Hospital in Providence; and Gary Christensen of the Rhode Island Quality Institute in Providence. They were among 73 individuals selected nationwide from a pool of 920 applications.

They will also be charged with creating partnerships to find new ideas that work, and share them regionally and across the United States. CMS selected 73 individuals nationwide to serve as Innovation Advisors from a pool of 920 applications.

“The selection of these Rhode Islanders by CMS is further recognition that our Ocean State is a leader in health care innovation,” said U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, who founded the Rhode Island Quality Institute during his time as Attorney General. “I congratulate the four Rhode Islanders who were selected, and thank them for their efforts.”