



News Release

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RISARC CEO Richard Stephenson Applauds Action by HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to Accelerate Interoperability Support for State and Municipal Healthcare Teams

\$48 million in new federal money will help labs and public agencies on the front line of the fight against infectious diseases quickly and accurately exchange health and lab result information.

Burbank, Ca (PRWEB) August 29, 2012 –Richard Stephenson, CEO and Founder of RISARC, a leading national provider of high-technology and revenue recovery solutions to the U.S. healthcare industry, has publicly endorsed plans by Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of [U.S. Health and Human Services](#), to ramp up funding for front line state and municipal healthcare providers that will facilitate achieving interoperability.

Secretary Sebelius announced last week that an additional \$48.8 million will be directed to bolster achieving seamless information exchange, what we call interoperability, for state and local laboratory systems engaged in fighting infectious diseases. Five cities, 50 states and Puerto Rico will apply these funds to desperately needed IT improvements critical to capturing and transmitting information about disease breakouts to health authorities and the general public.

Said Secretary Sebelius last week: “Today’s awards support the critical work of public health departments to prevent, track and respond to new and emerging infectious diseases.”

Fast track innovation

Said Stephenson regarding the HHS awards: “We need to realize quickly the vision of President Barack Obama and Secretary Sebelius that all systems in our national health care delivery chain be able to effectively exchange and use the same data – even when the systems don’t share the same interfaces. Achieving this [interoperability](#) goal with our front line protectors in public health departments and agencies inside the states and our biggest cities will also fast track IT innovations among our largest health care providers, public and private, which depend on these agencies for health alerts and information.”



The HHS awards announced last week represent the third year of funding made possible by the [Affordable Care Act](#) Prevention and Public Health Fund for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases Cooperative Agreements. Funds will help interconnect epidemiology, laboratory and health information systems in health departments in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Republic of Palau, the District of Columbia, New York City, Los Angeles County, Chicago, Philadelphia and Houston.

Full interoperability

Added Stephenson: "Effective medical decisions can only be made when doctors and other providers have accurate information. This is the vision of the Affordable Health Care Act and the early [Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health \(HITEC\) Act](#). The grants announced by Secretary Sebelius this week represent one more great step forward in realizing the shared dream of fully interoperable, seamlessly connected, privacy-protected information systems to protect the health of all."

About RISARC

RISARC is a leading national high-technology and revenue recovery consulting firm to the healthcare industry. RISARC, founded in 1990, has recovered over \$1 billion for its clients. The company offers the RMSe-bubble™ for secure electronic document exchange and the signature RISARC 360° single-source solution that combines healthcare revenue cycle expertise with innovative cloud-based, cost-saving technology to help clients optimize existing resources, meet business objectives and reach financial goals. RISARC is a pioneer in healthcare technology solutions and is a certified Health Information Handler for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, [esMD project](#). The RMSe-bubble provides the industry's best secure, HIPAA-compliant environment for electronic record and document exchange and has been endorsed and accepted by providers, commercial insurance carriers and government agencies across the United States.

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