



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Just in Time for Christmas Federal Administrator to Deliver \$4 Million for Oregon Safety Net Clinics

Portland, Oregon — **Elizabeth M. Duke, Ph.D.**, Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will visit the Oregon Community Health Information Network's office in Portland on Thursday, November 29, 2007, to personally deliver a \$4 million dollar grant at a 3:30 p.m. Press Conference and participate in an Executive Roundtable titled "Health Information Technology Today and Tomorrow". Both events will take place at OCHIN's Portland office.

"Oregon Community Health Information Network (OCHIN) was informed of the award in September, but having the Administrator present the award personally is quite an honor," said Abigail Sears, OCHIN's CEO. OCHIN will receive three federal grants totaling over \$4 million to continue west coast safety net clinic electronic health record implementation. These grants represent 47 percent of OCHIN's HRSA grant project implementation costs over the next three years. The U.S. Department of Human Services, Office of Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) has officially notified OCHIN and other grantees of \$31.4 million in three award categories:

- High Impact – A one-year grant to implement electronic health records
- Three-Year Electronic Health Record Implementation Grant
- Innovations Grant – A three-year grant for innovations in Health IT

Duke has led HRSA's implementation of President Bush's Health Center Initiative, which has created or expanded 1,100 service delivery sites since 2001 and boosted the number of patients served annually at health centers from about 10 million in 2001 to 15 million in 2006. HRSA-supported health centers deliver high-quality preventive and primary care to patients, regardless of their ability to pay, at 4,000 sites across the United States.



OCHIN's grants are part of the Bush administration's goal to improve overall health care quality and financial efficiency by assuring that all Americans have an electronic health record by the year 2014.

The HRSA grants will assist with 40 clinic implementations and move every member of the OCHIN collaborative closer to having a fully integrated electronic health record. In time, the system could be further enhanced with hospital, health plan and private clinic integration. "We are optimistic that by working with hospitals, health plans and independent clinics, we can make the integrated and secure health record a reality for the entire health care system," said Sears. "We are honored to receive these HRSA grants that support our mission, to improve the health of the medically underserved through the best use of information and information technology."

### About HRSA

HRSA is one of 11 operating divisions in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The agency uses its \$8.5 billion annual budget (FY 2007) to expand access to quality health care for all Americans through an array of grants to state and local governments, community-based health care providers, and health professions training programs. These HRSA-supported grantees provide direct health care services to 20 million people each year.

### About OCHIN

In 2000, the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) Community Access Program (CAP) awarded OCHIN a \$2 million grant to begin the process of designing and building a secure, reliable, high-speed, private network for delivering practice management software to community-based clinics. Seven years later, OCHIN has met that challenge and now provides software to safety-net medical, dental and, soon, mental health clinics throughout the west coast. In addition, OCHIN's electronic medical records software is moving clinics to secure and paperless efficiency, along with state-of-the-art centralized billing services and a master patient index. OCHIN uses world-class information system software developed by Epic Systems, Inc., and made affordable through generous grants from Epic and HRSA.

OCHIN has grown from a small \$2 million start-up housed in CareOregon (Oregon's largest non-profit Medicaid-managed care plan) to a \$6 million safety-net clinic collaborative. Today, it is a west coast collaborative with 20 safety-net clinic members, with over 150 individual clinic sites annually serving over 400,000 patients. OCHIN is one of only a few organizations in the country that is capturing aggregate health care data and statistics on low-income and uninsured populations. These patients are



predominately poor (66 percent below federal poverty level), disproportionately Medicaid/MediCal (35 percent), and uninsured (48 percent). High percentages are women and children, and nearly 30 percent are of Hispanic/Latino descent, while 33 percent are from rural communities.

**OCHIN Members:**

Asher Community Health Center  
Benton County Health Department  
Clackamas County Public Health Department  
Community Health Alliance of Pasadena  
Community Health Centers of Lane County  
Cowlitz Family Health Center  
Deschutes County Health Department  
Klamath County Public Health Department  
Klamath Open Door Family Practice  
La Clinica del Valle Family Health Care Centers  
Lincoln Community Health Center

Monterey County Health Department  
Multnomah County Health Department  
Ochoco Community Clinic  
OHSU Family Medicine at Scappoose  
OHSU Family Medicine at Richmond  
Pasadena Public Health Department  
Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency  
Santa Cruz Women's Health Center  
Tillamook County Health Department  
Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center

**For more information about OCHIN, please visit [www.ochin.org](http://www.ochin.org) or call 503.943.2500.**

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