



**Community Health Integrated Partnership
Maryland Community Health System**

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**Health Resources and Services Administration to Award Maryland Health Center Network
\$1.4 Million to Expand Use of Health Information Technology**

Dr. Elizabeth M. Duke, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Administrator will present Community Health Integrated Partnership a check for \$1.4 million at an award ceremony at Greater Baden Medical Services' Oxon Hill Health Center at 11:00 AM, Thursday, September 20, 2007. Oxon Hill Health Center, located at 6188 Oxon Hill Road, Suite 801, Oxon Hill, Maryland is one of nine community health centers operated by Greater Baden Medical Services serving Prince Georges, Charles and St. Mary's Counties.

Community Health Integrated Partnership (CHIP) is a not-for-profit network that provides quality improvement, management and information technology services to community health centers in order to support the health centers' efforts to contain health care costs through group purchasing and centralized management of services. The CHIP member health centers provide affordable, comprehensive primary care services to over 100,000 uninsured, Medicaid and commercially insured persons annually through 67 health center sites located throughout the state.

HRSA is awarding these funds to CHIP to implement an electronic health record system in seven health centers. The seven participating health centers are Community Clinic (Montgomery County), Greater Baden Medical Services (Prince George, Charles and St. Mary's Counties), Healthcare for the Homeless (Baltimore), Owensville Primary Care (Anne Arundel County), Peoples Community Health Centers (Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County), Three Lower Counties Community Services (Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset Counties) and Total Health Care (Baltimore). An eighth member of CHIP, Chase Brexton Health Services, implemented an electronic health record in 2003.

EHRs, critical tools in improving the quality of care, provide health care professionals the ability to monitor and analyze health information for their patients. EHRs are widely considered to be essential in improving the safety and quality of health care delivery and cutting waste and duplication of care.

The funds being presented to CHIP on September 20, 2007 "are vital for reaching the President's goal of adoption of electronic health records for most American by 2014," HRSA Administrator Elizabeth M. Duke states. "Health information technology has the potential to dramatically change the delivery of health care, especially for the underserved communities served by community health centers like those in the CHIP Network." HRSA's Office of Health Information Technology, created in 2005, is charged with developing an agency-wide HIT strategy that benefits safety-net providers and responds to the needs of the uninsured, underserved and special-needs populations.
