

## **HITECH Investments in HIT and What We're Seeing in the Field as a Result**

### **ABSTRACT**

---

The U.S.'s Investment of Millions in Health IT—Views from the Top and the Trenches  
The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) allocated billions for investment in health IT to improve health and health care in the U.S. Investments in achievement of “meaningful use” of electronic health records, advancement of health information exchange and the funding of a handful of “Beacon Communities” have sharply focused the nation’s attention on the role of health IT in improvement. This session will discuss the nation’s progress, examine the role of HIT investments in health system transformation and issue a warning or two about unintended consequences.

### **BIOGRAPHY**

---

#### **Laura Adams**

President & Chief Executive Officer  
Rhode Island Quality Institute



Laura Adams is the President and CEO of the Rhode Island Quality Institute (RIQI), a collaboration of the top leadership of health care stakeholders working together to transform the health care system in the state. RIQI was the only organization in the nation to win all three of the major ARRA health IT awards. The grants totaled \$27M in federal grant funding to further the organization’s work in health IT as a foundation for improvement. The grants funded health information exchange (HIE), the RI Regional Extension Center and the RI Beacon Community.

Laura served on the Office of the National Coordinator’s Health IT Policy Committee’s Governance Panel for the Nationwide Health Information Network in 2010. She is the immediate past Chair of the Board of the National eHealth Collaborative (NeHC), initiated by former HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt. Also in 2010, Laura chaired the Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) Planning Committee for the “Electronic Infrastructure for Population Health and a Learning Healthcare System” initiative.

She is a faculty member of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) in Boston and has been since its inception. She directed the IHI Idealized Design of the Intensive Care Unit project and also led the governance consulting for the Improving Performance in Practice (IPIP) Initiative, a Robert Wood Johnson-funded collaborative initiative of the American Board of Medical Specialties, and the Boards and Societies of Internal Medicine, Family Physicians and Pediatrics.

Laura was Founder, President and CEO of Decision Support Systems, a New York-based company specializing in Internet-based health care decision support. She was among the first to bring the principles of healthcare quality improvement to the Middle East, in conjunction with Donald M. Berwick, MD and the Harvard Institute for Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East. She traveled in the U.S. and Europe with Dr. W. Edwards Deming as a student in the study of statistical-based quality improvement.

Her publications include co-authoring with Gustafson, et al, “Developing and Testing a Model to Predict Outcomes of Organizational Change”, *Health Services Research*, 38(2), 751-776 and co-authoring “Collaborating with Consumers to Advance Health Knowledge and Improve Practice” in Herzlinger, R, *Consumer-Driven Health Care: Implications for Providers, Payers and Policymakers*, 2004” She also co-authored “A Draft Framework for Measuring Progress Towards the Development of a National Health Information Infrastructure, *BMC Medical Informatics Decision Making*, June, 2005. Laura also co-authored “Improving comfort and communication in the ICU: a practical new tool for palliative care performance measurement and feedback”, Nelson, J., Mulkerin, C., Adams, L. and Pronovost, P.; *Quality and Safety in Health Care*, Aug 2006. Her most recent publication co-authored with Peter Pronovost, MD, et.al. is “The Rhode Island ICU Collaborative: A Model for Reducing Central line-associated Bloodstream Infection and Ventilator-associated Pneumonia Statewide”, *Quality and Safety in Health Care* 2010;19:555-561

Laura’s experience in healthcare at the senior management level included her position as Vice President of Patient Services at Parkview Episcopal Medical Center in Colorado and Assistant Administrator for the Universal Health Services’ New Orleans area hospitals. In 2007, she received a Congressional citation from Congressman Patrick Kennedy for her visionary leadership and contributions to improving the health care system in Rhode Island. In 2010 she was named “Healthcare Industry Leader in Business” by the Providence Business News and received *Progreso Latino*’s “Unsung Hero” award for leading systemic change in health care. Laura also received University of Northern Colorado’s 2010 Distinguished Alumni award.