



## Alliance for Rural Community Health

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### **ARCH to Build Health Record Exchange for Community Health Clinics**

Ukiah, CA (July 12, 2004), - - - Alliance for Rural Community Health (ARCH), a consortium of Community Health Centers in Mendocino County, today announced the selection of Browsersoft, Inc., a Kansas-based software application development firm, and IBM authorized development partner, to build a secure health records access system for Mendocino County's health centers, hospitals and human service agencies.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for residents of Mendocino County," said John Walton, ARCH's Project Manager for the Mendocino SHARE Project. "The SHARE health records access system will allow care providers, and eventually patients, easier access to their health information, and will form the basis for a more integrated and comprehensive health care system for our entire county."

The health records access system is the major technology component of the Mendocino SHARE (Securing Health Access and Records Exchange) Project, funded by a 3-year grant from the federal Healthy Communities Access Program (HCAP). Eighty-four percent of the project's costs are financed by a grant from HCAP. The remainder of the project is currently underwritten by contributions from the thirteen organizations who are members of SHARE.

ARCH is developing user specifications and providing technology planning oversight for the development of the health records access system. Participating members of Mendocino SHARE include all six local community health clinics plus the Consolidated Tribal Health Project, the county departments of Public Health and Social Services, and all three hospitals in Mendocino County, California.

ARCH selected Browsersoft from among 12 strong proposals submitted by software development firms across the country. Will Ross, Chief Technology Officer for ARCH, cited Browsersoft's flexibility and depth of understanding of the project goals as key factors in the selection. "Browsersoft's willingness to work with open source software was another consideration," he stated. "Developing an open source solution rather than purchasing a proprietary software solution allows ARCH to make the resulting SHARE software available to other community health organizations across the country."

Browsersoft will build an open source health records access solution for SHARE based on standards researched and developed by Dr. David Forslund of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Forslund's research at LANL provides a foundation for secure, distributed medical record systems.

In addition to the technology component awarded to Browsersoft, the SHARE project also invests in staff training and program planning to improve collaboration in the treatment of chronic disease across all participating health care organizations in Mendocino County. Special efforts are also being made to increase enrollment of families and individuals who are eligible for medical insurance and other related programs.

### **About ARCH**

The Alliance for Rural Community Health (ARCH), is a non-profit Corporation based in Ukiah, California. ARCH is a consortium of non-profit Community Health Centers operating in Mendocino and Lake counties. ARCH provides policy, planning and project support services to its members. More information on ARCH and Mendocino SHARE is available at <http://www.ruralcommunityhealth.org/msp.html>.

### **About Browsersoft, Inc.**

Browsersoft, Inc. provides consulting services and breakthrough products that reduce enterprise application development costs and accelerate time to market. Founded in 1998 by a team of software and business development professionals, Browsersoft specializes in the design and development of web-based enterprise applications. Browsersoft's flagship product, eQ!(TM) Foundation, is a development foundation for quickly deploying applications and adapting them to changing business requirements. More information about Browsersoft is available at <http://www.browsersoft.com>.

### **About Los Alamos National Laboratory**

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is operated by the University of California for the U.S. Department of Energy. Los Alamos develops and applies science and technology to ensure the safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear deterrent; to reduce the threat of weapons of mass destruction, proliferation and terrorism; and to solve national problems in defense, energy, environment and infrastructure. More information about LANL is available at <http://www.lanl.gov>.