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PUERTO RICO Health & Insurance CONFERENCE 2012 *Economic Transformation in Health*



Dr. Walter Suárez
Director of Health IT Strategy
for Kaiser Permanente

Dr. Suarez is a physician and a public health and medical information systems specialist, and the Director of Health IT Strategy for Kaiser Permanente. Before joining Kaiser, Dr. Suarez was the President and CEO of the Institute for HIPAA/HIT Education and Research. Prior to this he was the CEO of the Midwest Center for HIPAA Education and before that the Executive Director and CEO of the Minnesota Health Data Institute. He also worked for the Minnesota Department of Health in various senior policy positions.

Dr. Suarez has provided project management, technical and policy consulting services and project/program evaluation services to health care provider organizations, health plans, Medicaid and Medicare programs, Public Health agencies and vendors in the areas of Health IT/HIE, public health data standards, health disparities, quality measurement, health information privacy and security standards, and HIPAA standards including Transactions and Code Sets (TCS) and the National Provider Identifier (NPI).

Dr. Suarez was appointed in 2008 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to the prestigious National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS), where he now co-chairs the Sub-Committee on Standards. Last year the Secretary also appointed him to the HIT Standards Committee of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, where he co-chairs the Privacy and Security Workgroup. He is also an active member of several national organizations, including Founding President and Member of the Board of the Public Health Data Standards Consortium (PHDSC); Member of the Executive Board of the Joint Public Health Informatics Task Force (JPHITF); and Member of HL7, ISO, and other standard development organizations