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For Immediate Release

Cal eConnect Appoints Carladenise Edwards as New Chief Executive Officer

SAN FRANCISCO – June 17, 2010 – Carladenise Armbrister Edwards, Ph.D., has been appointed chief executive officer for Cal eConnect, the private nonprofit corporation charged by the state to ensure physicians, hospitals, and patients have access to critical medical record information when and where it is needed. Edwards will be responsible for managing the \$38.8 million federal grant California received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to implement health information exchange (HIE) services and policies.

Selected from a nationwide search, Edwards brings extensive HIE experience to her new post. Most recently she served as Georgia's Health Information Technology Coordinator in her roles as Chief of Staff and Interim Commissioner for the Georgia Department of Community Health. In Florida she was founding Executive Director of the South Florida Health Information Initiative and the first Executive Director of Florida's Governor's Health Information Infrastructure Advisory Board under Gov. Jeb Bush.

"Cal eConnect is fortunate to have an individual of Dr. Edward's caliber guiding this critical initiative," said David Lansky, co-chair of the Cal eConnect Board of Directors and CEO of the Pacific Business Group on Health. "In addition to her knowledge of health information technology and exchange, she has broad and deep policy experience at both the federal, state and community levels. This will be extremely important in fulfilling Cal eConnect's role of establishing the policies necessary for exchanging information safely and securely."

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to be part of the largest health information exchange effort in the country," Edwards said. "I am committed to working with the diverse communities across the state to build a private and secure system of sharing essential health information when it is needed by providers and patients as they make critical health care decisions. I am looking forward to working collaboratively with providers in California to ensure they benefit from the federal funding available for the meaningful use of electronic health information to improve the quality, access, and affordability of the care they deliver to Californians each and every day."

"Dr. Edward's history of public service combined with her interest and advocacy for improving health care quality make her an ideal HIE leader for California," said Don Crane, Cal eConnect co-chair and CEO of the California Association of Physician Groups.

In her post as the Georgia Department of Community Health's Interim Commissioner, Edwards led a \$12 billion agency responsible for health care purchasing, planning and regulation, and improving health outcomes. Programs under her purview included Medicaid, PeachCare for Kids, health care facility regulation, public health and emergency preparedness, and the State Health Benefit Plan. Prior to the interim commissioner appointment, Edwards was chief of staff for the department, serving as principal advisor on all major policy and management issues and initiatives with special emphasis on managed care, health information technology, public health, health care reform, and contracts and procurements.

In the private sector, Edwards founded and led The BAE Company, a professional services consulting firm providing health and social services entities with project management, business development, grant writing, research design and implementation, and procurement and contract negotiation services. She was vice president of operations for Williams, Stern and Associates, a Miami-based health and human services consulting firm.

Edwards earned a doctorate in medical sociology from the University of Florida. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology and Masters of Science degree in education with a concentration in psychological services from the University of Pennsylvania. Edwards and her family will be moving from Atlanta to California in July.

For more information about Cal eConnect visit www.caleconnect.org

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About Cal eConnect: Cal eConnect is a private, nonprofit corporation designated by the State of California to provide leadership and oversee a collaborative process for developing and supporting health information exchange policies and services in California. Cal eConnect is tasked with establishing ground rules by which health information can be exchanged appropriately among clinicians, hospitals, health plans, patients, and government programs, including public health and Medi-Cal. It also oversees and manages implementation of HIE services throughout the state under a federal grant California received as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).