

Washington, DC, September 28, 2017 - The Healthcare and Public Health Sector Coordinating Council (HPH SCC) announced today the appointment of Gregory T. Garcia, a former homeland security, financial services and high-tech industry leader, to be the first Executive Director for Cybersecurity of the HPH SCC, effective October 1. The HPH SCC is recognized by the Department of Health and Human Services as the principal public-private partnership that ensures the effective identification, prioritization, coordination and implementation of sector-wide strategies to secure the U.S. healthcare system against physical and cyber threats.

Garcia was the nation's first Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (2006-08), and served as executive director of the Financial Services Sector Coordinating Council (FSSCC) and a co-founder of the Information Technology Sector Coordinating Council (IT-SCC). As executive director for cybersecurity of the HPH SCC, Garcia will focus on strengthening the sector's cybersecurity posture.

"Cyber threats to the nation's health sector continue to proliferate and Greg will bring time-tested leadership to the cybersecurity initiatives of the sector," said HPH SCC chair Dr. Earl Motzer. "Key health sector components have been organizing smartly to mitigate those threats, and Greg will help take us to the next level in coordination with federal and state governments."

Terence Rice, Merck's Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), a member of the NH-ISAC Board and the Health Care Industry Cybersecurity Task Force that just released an extensive report, observed, "The healthcare sector is at an inflection point. Even while the sector has been building its awareness of all-hazard threats and coordinating increasing resources to mitigate those threats, recent natural disasters such as Hurricanes Irma and Harvey, and unrelenting cyber threats punctuate how our collective vigilance, preparedness and momentum are needed to ensure our nation is healthy and confident in the integrity of the system," Rice said. "We are excited that Greg Garcia, who has fought these threats from both government and industry, will join our effort and help build our momentum toward a more secure and resilient healthcare infrastructure."

After two years as executive vice president with DC-based Signal Consulting Group, Garcia said he is motivated to return to the critical infrastructure protection mission with the healthcare sector. "I am honored and eager to help the health sector bring the fight to the cyber threat and work with other interdependent sectors, such as communications, energy, transportation and water, to ensure our collective security. The Health Care Industry Cybersecurity Task Force report is just one example of how the healthcare sector is advancing critical situational awareness and recommendations for improvement. I'm ready to help sector leaders drive implementation of those recommendations as well as other proactive initiatives."

ABOUT HPH SCC: The HPH SCC is recognized by the Secretary of Health and Human Services as the critical infrastructure industry partner with the government under Presidential Policy Directive 21 for coordinating strategic and policy approaches to preparing for, responding to, and recovering from significant cyber and physical threats to the sector. These include natural, technological and manmade disasters, and national or regional health crises. The health sector is composed of publicly accessible healthcare facilities and private practices, health plans and payers, blood, lab, pharmacy and other suppliers, funeral homes and mass fatality managers, research centers, manufacturers, and other physical assets and vast, complex public-private information technology systems required to support care delivery and the rapid, secure transmission and storage of large amounts of HPH data.

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