

Friday, August 3, 2018

Dear IPHCA Assembly of Delegates,

Thank you to all who participated in our special election today. We are appreciative of the time and commitment so many members have given to our organization over the past number of weeks. No doubt, this has been a challenging time for IPHCA. We are, however, unified in our commitment to moving our organization forward.

Today, we elected a new executive board from a slate of active and engaged members as required by our by-laws. Congratulations to our newly elected Executive Board members.

**Chair:** Lee Francis, Erie Family Health Center, Inc., Chicago, Illinois

**Chair – Elect:** Larry McCulley, SIHF Healthcare, Sauget, Illinois

**Secretary:** Verneda Bachus, Friend Family Health Center, Inc., Chicago, Illinois

**Treasurer:** Muhammad Paracha, Asian Human Services Family Health Center, Inc., Chicago, Illinois

**Chair – Legislation & Public Policy:** Veronica Clarke, TCA Health Inc. – NFP, Chicago, Illinois

As new leaders, we are prioritizing our efforts around member engagement beginning with individual member meetings to hear from you and gather input into how we can continue to serve you. There is an extraordinary amount of great work being done across the industry and there remains more to be done. But we cannot do it alone.

You will notice that while there is diverse representation among our new Executive Committee, none of the eligible candidates were Latino. In the future, we plan to increase the engagement, participation and diversity of the Association's leadership as we collectively work to support Illinois' community health centers and the 1.4 million patients they serve. Health centers have an over 50-year history of offering high quality, comprehensive and integrated health care to a diverse population, and our goal is to reflect that in our leadership.

Finally, we cannot move forward without denouncing the previous comments by our former CEO. We are truly sorry for the inappropriate comments made to one of our members, Mr. Raul Garza, and his staff. We are also sorry for the divisiveness those actions caused. These actions are not indicative of our members or the organization as a whole.



Thank you for all that you do each and every day. You have our commitment to be your partner in expanding access to community-based primary health services across Illinois.

Sincerely,

Lee Francis  
Chairman

Jordan Powell  
Acting President & CEO