

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioner Appoints Members of Minority Health Advisory Council

ATLANTA – Commissioner Rhonda Medows, MD, FAAFP, announced today 12 new appointments to the Minority Health Advisory Council (MHAC). This council is dedicated to improving the health of minority populations in the state of Georgia.

“The Department of Community Health will work diligently to improve health outcomes for minority populations,” Dr. Medows said. “The appointment of these professionals to the Minority Health Advisory Council represents our commitment to this effort and is another step in the right direction.”

The MHAC will address health care issues of great importance to Georgians –especially our African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska Native populations. These populations are being focused on because of the health disparities that exist among these groups.

The Minority Health Advisory Council is charged with:

- Providing leadership in the development of a health care strategic plan that will address improvements in the health status for minority populations in Georgia.
- Improving the awareness of the public, health care consumers, and their communities about key issues regarding the health status of minority populations.
- Providing and coordinating efforts involving health education on key health issues and about the resources available to those in need of assistance.
- Encouraging and supporting community based solutions that address quality, access and the affordability of care available to minority populations
- Encouraging related research and grant opportunities that focus on the resolution of health disparities.
- Promoting the development of public-private partnerships focused on resolving health disparities and the promotion of prevention, wellness, and healthy behaviors.
- Advocacy for culturally competent initiatives throughout the health care industry.

New members of the council include:

- Tish Towns
 - Orlin Marquez
 - Juanita Cone, MD
 - Ann Travis-Honeycutt, MD
 - Pamela Craft
 - Katherine Cummings
 - Mel Lindsey
 - Dan Salinas, MD
 - George Rust, MD
 - Jaime Altamirano, MD
 - Sonia Alvarez-Robinson
 - Chaiwon Kim
- Grady Hospital
 - Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
 - Kaiser Permanente
 - Georgia Academy of Family Physicians
 - Georgia Dental Society
 - Georgia Rural Health Assoc.
 - AmeriGroup
 - Blue Cross-Blue Shield
 - Morehouse School of Medicine
 - Centers for Disease Control
 - Department of Human Resources
 - Center for Pan-Asian Community Services

The council will meet quarterly and members are appointed for a two-year term of service.

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About the Department of Community Health

The Georgia Department of Community Health champions:

ACCESS to affordable, quality health care in our communities

RESPONSIBLE health planning and use of health care resources

HEALTHY behaviors and improved health outcomes