

For Immediate Release

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## **Joel Presley Named New Executive Director of the State Office of Rural Health**

**ATLANTA (February 13, 2024)** – The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) announced today that Joel Presley has joined the team as its new executive director for the State Office of Rural Health (SORH) division, based in Cordele, Ga. In this role, Joel will oversee SORH programs that primarily disburse grant funding to address healthcare disparities and support the financial viability of Georgia’s rural hospitals. SORH’s programs include the Rural Hospital Stabilization Grant Program, Hospital Services, Georgia Farmworker Health Program, and Primary Care Office.



Joel comes to DCH from the Tift Regional Health System where he served as director of clinical integration and population health. He was responsible for daily departmental operations, development and implementation of several population health programs, and implementation of several grant-based programs in conjunction with other partner organizations focusing on healthcare access, quality improvement, and data collection and reporting. Other past work includes experience as a physician liaison – training physicians and advanced practitioners on computer-based applications – and he is a registered respiratory therapist.

“Joel’s strong background as a healthcare leader, especially within rural communities, will be a key asset for this important role,” says DCH Commissioner Russel Carlson. “SORH connects traditionally underserved communities with critical resources to help create and maintain sustainable healthcare access, and having Joel lead the team will only further strengthen the work of this dedicated team.”

Joel received associate degrees from Southwest Georgia Technical College, Community College of the Air Force, and Santa Fe Community College. He earned his bachelor’s degree in social psychology from Park University.

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