



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DCH 2008 Health Information Technology and Transparency Advisory Board Members**

*Health Information Technology and Transparency Advisory Board Works With DCH to Promote HIT Awareness Efforts in Georgia*

**ATLANTA** – The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) announces its 2008 Health Information Technology and Transparency (HITT) Advisory Board. The 11 member board is appointed by the commissioner of DCH, Dr. Rhonda Medows.

“I am delighted that this group of leaders -- both from a variety of fields and industries -- have volunteered their talents and time to advance the state’s HITT efforts,” said Dr. Medows. “Their perspectives and dedication will help guide the state’s vision of increasing transparency in Georgia’s healthcare industry.”

During their one year term, the board members are charged with helping DCH establish a statewide strategy to enable health information to be readily available and transparent.

**2008 Members of the HITT Advisory Board**

**Mike Adloo, Pharmacy Member** – Adloo is a regional manager for Wal-Mart’s Pharmacy Division. He is responsible for the operations of 800 pharmacies in the Southeast region.

**Dr. Jack Mabry Chapman, Board Vice Chair and Physician Member** – Chapman is an ophthalmologist and serves on the Greater Hall Chamber Healthcare Committee.

**Honorable Judson Hill, Legislative Member** – Senator Hill’s legislative efforts focus on quality of health care, tort reform, small-business growth, and improved educational opportunities for children. He is also managing director of Day Capitol, LLC.

**Patricia Lavelly, Board Chair and Information Technology Member** – Lavelly is vice president and chief information officer of Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah. In this position, she provides IT leadership and planning for two state, academic health care organizations serving a 35 county of southeast Georgia and southern South Carolina.

**Pam Matthews, HIE Member** – Matthews is the senior director of healthcare information systems for the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS). She directs the society’s initiatives in the areas related to regional health information organizations, HIEs, state level HIE initiatives, financial systems, and related technology.

**Martha Okafor, Public Health Member** – Okafor is deputy director for the Division of Public Health, Health Information, Policy, Strategy and Accountability (HIPSA) under the

Georgia Department of Human Resources. At state and local levels, she leads HIPSA in reaching improved birth outcomes, healthy behaviors and safety and protection from health hazards.

**Joel Schuessler, Legal Member** – Schuessler is responsible for counseling DeKalb Medical’s hospital administration and staff on legal matters related to health care related activities and the operation of a clinically integrated hospital system.

**Diane Turcan, Information Technology Member** – Turcan is the director of Healthcare Marketing for AT&T. She is known for pioneering telehealth applications and medical information networks and is currently working with states and health information exchange organizations on the development of ehealth and telemedicine networks.

**Allison Wall, Consumer Member** – Wall is the founder of Georgia Watch, the state’s leading consumer watchdog. Prior to starting Georgia Watch, Wall advocated on behalf of Georgia’s families for stricter air pollution controls and healthier air quality.

**Denise Marcia Watson, Board Secretary and Laboratory Member** – Watson is the health plan & payor market account executive for Quest Diagnostics, Inc. She manages laboratory contracts and servicing for over 50 health plans for Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

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