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ACHC Announces New Officer Positions for Board of Commissioners

CARY, N.C. (August 24, 2022) – Accreditation Commission for Health Care, Inc. (ACHC) announces newly named officers for its Board of Commissioners. This governing body includes professionals across the healthcare spectrum, from practicing physicians and nurse administrators to legal and pharmacy experts. ACHC Board of Commissioners and its officers will help guide ACHC as it continues to grow its business through strategic acquisitions and specialized service offerings.

“I am pleased to work alongside this team of officers as they assume their new roles within the Board of Commissioners,” said José Domingos, president and CEO of ACHC. “Each officer brings such valuable expertise that will help us collaborate and continue to work toward our goal of serving accreditation and certification needs across the continuum of care with the quality and customer service that are hallmarks of ACHC’s approach.”

The officers will serve through June 2025.

- **Roy G. Chew, PhD, Chair of the Board** is retired as President of Kettering Health Network in southwest Ohio, where he served for 43 years in various positions of administrative responsibility. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for Kettering Health Network, as well as the boards of several of its hospitals and foundations. Mr. Chew joined the ACHC Board at the time of its merger with the Accreditation Association for Hospitals and Health Systems (AAHHS), parent company of Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP). Mr. Chew’s undergraduate degree is from the University of Missouri, his MS is from the University of Dayton, and his PhD from Stanford University.
- **Brock Slabach, MPH, FACHE, Vice Chair** is Chief Operating Officer for the National Rural Health Association. Prior to joining NRHA, he was a rural hospital administrator for more than 21 years and served on the board of the NRHA and the regional policy board of the American Hospital Association. Mr. Slabach serves on the Star Rating Technical Expert Panel (TEP) of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is a member of the National Quality Forum’s Measures Application Partnership (MAP) Hospital and Rural Health Workgroup, and served as a board member of the Accreditation Association for Hospitals and Health Systems (AAHHS), the parent company of Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP), prior to its merger with ACHC. He earned a Master of Public Health degree in Health Administration from the University of Oklahoma and is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.
- **Mark S. DeFrancesco, MD, MBA, FACOG, Secretary** is a past President and former National Secretary of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and recently retired from private practice. He is a founder of Women’s Health Connecticut/Physicians for Women’s Health and served as its Chief Medical Officer from 1997 to 2014. Dr. DeFrancesco

served as a Board Member and President of the Board of Directors of Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC). He subsequently served on the Board of Directors of Accreditation Association for Hospitals and Health Systems (AAHHS), the parent company of Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP). A graduate of Yale University, Dr. DeFrancesco received his medical education at the University of Connecticut. He earned an MBA from the University of New Haven.

- **William R. Letendre, Sr., MS, MBA, Treasurer** continues in his role of Treasurer for the ACHC Board of Commissioners. Mr. Letendre is Vice President of Pharmacy Management Services for Professional Compounding Centers of America, Inc., where he has served for 30 years. He also served as President and a Board Member of the Texas Pharmacy Association and the New Hampshire Pharmacists Association. Additionally, he worked as Pharmacist-in-Charge in the retail and hospital pharmacy sectors and has served academic appointments at numerous schools of pharmacy. Mr. Letendre's affiliations during his 50-year career included adjunct faculty appointments at the University of Houston and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. He also was a Board Member and Treasurer of the Academy for Compounding Pharmacy. Mr. Letendre earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Pharmacy from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and the University of Texas at Austin, respectively, and an MBA from the University of Phoenix.
- **Denise Leard, Esq., Immediate Past Chair** joined the Amarillo, Texas, law firm Brown & Fortunato, P.C., in 1997 and serves as a contributing member of the firm's Health Care Group. Ms. Leard represents home/durable medical equipment companies, pharmacies, and other healthcare providers nationwide. She has authored numerous articles and is a frequent lecturer throughout the country. She is licensed in Idaho, Oklahoma, Texas, and Washington, and is board-certified in health law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Ms. Leard earned a BA from the University of Washington and received her law degree from the University of Oklahoma School of Law.
- **Marshelle Thobaben, RN, MS, PHN, APNP, FNP, Officer-At-Large** is Professor Emeritus at Humboldt State University (HSU) in Arcata, California, and a nursing consultant. For over 30 years, Professor Thobaben taught community and public health nursing and chaired the HSU Department of Nursing as well as the HSU and CSU academic senates. Professor Thobaben has published more than 150 articles in leading nursing journals, written chapters and co-authored textbooks, and presented at numerous national conferences on nursing and social issues. She has been nationally recognized for her work in elder abuse prevention and home health psychiatric nursing. Professor Thobaben received a BS from the University of Portland and an MSN from California State University, Fresno. She was a Robert Wood Johnson Fellow at the University of Rochester and attended the Institute for Research on Higher Education Executive Program on Managing Higher Education at the University of Pennsylvania.

"These officers and my esteemed colleagues bring years of experience and demonstrated dedication to quality care," added Domingos. "I'm confident this leadership team will help our organization continue on the path of success."

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About ACHC

Accreditation leader ACHC is a nonprofit with over 35 years of experience promoting safe, quality patient care. ACHC develops solutions trusted by healthcare providers nationwide and is committed to offering exceptional, personalized service, and a customized, collaborative accreditation experience tailored to individual needs. ACHC focuses on giving providers a positive, educational experience that continually enhances quality of care and business efficiencies.

Learn more about accreditation options from ACHC. For information on programs and accreditation pricing, please email customerservice@achc.org, call (855) 937-2242 or visit www.achc.org.