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CHCA names Dr. Lanita S. White as incoming Chief Executive Officer

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Community Health Centers of Arkansas is excited to announce that Dr. Lanita S. White will be joining the organization as chief executive officer. White will bring to CHCA more than 15 years of accomplished multi-pronged experiences in health care, including clinical, administrative, and academic leadership roles in the state.

White, Pharm D., is assistant dean for student affairs and an associate professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, College of Pharmacy. She previously served as director of the UAMS 12th Street Health and Wellness Center in Little Rock.

"This is an exciting and critical time in health care," White said. "The pandemic has taught us many lessons, including the heightened demand for creativity and adaptability. Health centers uniquely offer innovations in treating the overall health of patients. In health care, we must take time to understand the bigger picture of what's going on in our patients' lives and how those factors affect their health. That's incredibly important."

White said a goal in leading the statewide association of Community Health Centers (CHCs) is to positively impact patients across Arkansas but especially those among vulnerable, minority, and rural populations.

Brigitte McDonald, chair of the CHCA Board of Directors, said White was chosen following a six-month candidate search.

"Lanita really exhibited the best grasp of the role of CHCs as well as what we needed from the position," said McDonald, chief executive officer at 1st Choice Healthcare in Corning. "She's demonstrated through her work at the 12th Street clinic her ability to engage the community for positive change. She's clearly energetic. She'll no doubt be a dynamo of leadership and advocacy for CHCs across the state."

White, 44, lives in Little Rock. She is a native of Louisiana, receiving a Doctor of Pharmacy from Xavier University in New Orleans following undergraduate work at Southern University and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. She moved to Arkansas in 2006 after accepting a residency at the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System. She's held multiple positions at UAMS starting in 2012, including directing a pharmacy residency program.

Lisa Weaver, former chief operating officer at CHCA, will continue to serve as interim chief executive officer until White officially joins the organization February 7, 2022.

About: CHCs are non-profit organizations fueled by patient revenue and federal grants meant to expand health care access for low-income, minority, and rural populations. CHCs provide many services including primary care, dental, behavioral health, and health education. CHCA provides advocacy, training, and support for CHCs in Arkansas.

Altogether, **12 CHCs** in Arkansas (including 11 member CHCA organizations) serve more than **240,000 people** a year at more than **160 sites**. Nationally, nearly **1,400** CHCs serve **30 million patients** a year.

For more information on Community Health Centers in Arkansas, please visit:

<http://www.chc-ar.org/>

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