



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Theresa Spinner, MA  
Director, Media and Public Relations  
Direct: 202-783-5551  
[tspinner@naccho.org](mailto:tspinner@naccho.org)

**NACCHO Announces the 2016-17 Officers and Board of Directors**

**Washington, DC, June 20, 2016**—The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is proud to announce the 2016-2017 election results for NACCHO Officers and Board of Directors. Claude-Alix Jacob, MPH, Chief Public Health Officer for the City of Cambridge, MA, will become NACCHO President. Umair Shah, MD, MPH, Executive Director of Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services (HCPHES) in Houston, TX will become the Vice President.

Swannie Jett, DrPH, MSc, Health Officer for the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County is the Immediate-Past President.

We wish to extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to Alina Alonso, MD, Director of the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach, FL who is stepping down from the Board to devote her time to attend to a family matter. She has served on NACCHO's Board since July 2011 and has been a valued member of both the Executive and Finance Committees respectively. Her stellar contributions to the membership association, her tireless efforts and her work to support local public health initiatives are to be highly commended.

Due to Dr. Alonso's resignation that will result in a vacancy of the position of President-Elect at the end of June, an election is proposed to be held during the Board

Meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup> at the NACCHO Annual 2016 Meeting in Phoenix, AZ in order to fill this executive committee seat with a current NACCHO Board member.

As the governing body, the Board of Directors establishes NACCHO's strategic direction and initiatives, ensures that annual goals are met, sets the annual legislative agenda, and provides financial oversight. The Board is NACCHO's public face, and represents its members in matters of policy, public health practice and collaboration with health partners in the public and private sectors.

Mr. Jacob is the Chief Public Health Officer for approximately 100,000 residents for the City of Cambridge, MA where he was appointed in April 2007. He directs the Cambridge Public Health Department of the Cambridge Health Alliance which is poised to become one of the first accredited local health departments in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Mr. Jacob's previous work experiences include serving as a senior health administrator at the Illinois Department of Public Health, Baltimore City Health Department and Sinai Health System in Chicago. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Public Health Foundation, the Massachusetts Public Health Association and the National Advisory Board of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship. Mr. Jacob also received training with the National Public Health Leadership Institute (2011), as well as the W.K. Kellogg Fellowship for Emerging Leadership in Public Health. He is passionate about workforce development, accreditation, quality improvement, and health equity. Mr. Jacob received a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Illinois at the Chicago School of Public Health.

Dr. Shah was appointed in May 2013 as the Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES) Executive Director and the Local Health Authority for Harris County, Texas – the third most populous county in the United States with a population of 4.3 million spread over 1778 square miles, the approximate size of the state of Rhode Island. Prior to joining HCPHES, Dr. Shah served as the Chief Medical Officer at the Galveston County Health District and since 1999, an emergency department physician at Houston's well-respected Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center. Dr. Shah assumed the dual role as Deputy Director and its Director of Disease Control & Clinical Prevention upon

joining HCPHES in 2004, overseeing all departmental clinical and infectious disease activities. Under his leadership at HCPHES, the department has won numerous national awards for its innovative work. Dr. Shah earned his B.A. (philosophy) from Vanderbilt University and his Medical Degree from the University of Toledo Health Science Center.

The complete list of the NACCHO Board of Directors is noted below. This esteemed group of public health leaders will begin their official responsibilities on July 1, 2016.

- Dawn Allicock, MD, MPH, CPH, Director/Health Officer, Florida Department of Health in St. John's County, St. Augustine, FL (PHS Region 4)
- Claudia Blackburn, MPH, RNC, Health Officer, Leon County Health Department, Tallahassee, FL
- Brian Bowden, MSc, Associate Legislative Director for Health, National Association of Counties (NACo), Washington, DC (Ex Officio)
- Sara H. Cody, MD, Health Officer, Santa Clara County Public Health Department, San Jose, CA
- Melody Counts, MD, MHM, District Director, Cumberland Plateau Health District, Lebanon, VA (PHS Region 3)
- Della Cox-Vieira, RN, MPH, Director, Alamosa County Public Health Department, Alamosa, CO
- Muriel DeLavernne-Brown, RN, MPH, Public Health Director, Crook County Health Department, Prineville, OR
- Pramod Dwivedi, DrPH, Health Director, Linn County Public Health Department, Cedar Rapids, IA (PHS Region 7)
- Bob England, MD, MPH, Director, Maricopa County Department of Public Health, Phoenix, AZ
- Andre Fresco, MPA, Administrator, Yakima Health District, Union Gap, WA (PHS Region 10)
- Melanie Hutton, RN, Administrator, Cooper County Public Health Center, Boonville, MO

- Joseph Iser, MD, DrPH, MSc, Chief Health Officer, Southern Nevada Health District, Las Vegas, NV (PHS Region 9)
- Jennifer C. Kertanis, MPH, Director of Health, Farmington Valley Health District, Canton, CT (PHS Region 1)
- Jeff Kuhr, PhD, Public Health Director, Mesa County Health Department, Grand Junction, CO (PHS Region 8)
- Doug Mathis, MA, Administrator, Henry County Health Department, New Castle, IN
- Crystal Miller, DrPH, MPH, Public Health Director, Wedco District Health Department, Cynthiana, KY
- Gretchen Musicant, RN, MPH, Commissioner, Minnesota Health Department, Minneapolis, MN (PHS Region 5)
- William S. Paul, MD, MPH, Director, Metro Public Health Department, Nashville, TN
- George T. Roberts, Jr., MHA, FACHE, Chief Executive Officer, Northeast Texas Public Health District, Tyler, TX (PHS Region 6)
- Scott Sjoquist, MS, RS, Director of Health, Mohegan Tribal Health, Uncasville, CT (Tribal Health Department Representative)
- Kevin Sumner, MPH, Health Officer/Director, Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission, Green Brook, NJ (PHS Region 2)
- Crystal D. Swann, MS, Assistant Executive Director for Health and Human Services, United States Conference of Mayors, Washington, DC (Ex Officio)

###

## **ABOUT NACCHO**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is the national nonprofit association representing the approximately 2,800 local health departments (LHDs) in the United States, including city, county, metro, district, and tribal agencies. NACCHO's vision is health, equity, and security for all people in their communities through public health policies and services. NACCHO's mission is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments in order to ensure the conditions that promote health and equity, combat disease, and improve the quality and length of all lives.

