



For Immediate Release

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Lowell Community Health Center's Sheila Och Appointed Board Chair at Community Teamwork

Lowell, Sheila Och has recently been appointed Board Chair of Community Teamwork. After serving on the Board for a number of years, Sheila will take over as Board Chair from Dennis Piendak, former Dracut City Manager, who led Community Teamwork through two terms, including leading the agency during the past two difficult years of the Pandemic.

Sheila currently serves as the Chief Engagement and Equity Officer at Lowell Community Health Center. She has worked in public health for over 25 years and is recognized, locally and nationally for her work advancing equity, inclusion, and social impact. She leads community health strategies; leads the development, design, implementation, and evaluation of public health programs with a focus on racial and health equity; oversees advocacy efforts on federal, state, and local public policies to advance the wellbeing of our community and, and leads the health center's staff engagement, culture and inclusion strategy and programming.

"Over the past 50 plus years, Community Teamwork has had a remarkable positive impact in our community, working tirelessly to create opportunities for people to achieve stability, self-sufficiency and have an active role and participation in the decisions that affect their lives. I'm honored to be selected and serve as Board Chair and to support my fellow board members, CTI staff and partners in our pursuit for social change so that everyone has an opportunity to thrive," said Sheila.

Recognized for her health equity, cultural competence and language access expertise, Sheila has worked with organizations throughout the nation, state and region to effectively deliver services that meet the social, cultural, and linguistic needs of all patients. Sheila has received several awards and recognitions for her leadership, advocacy and work championing equity and social justice, including national recognition by the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health, the National Association of Community Health Centers, and the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, Greater Lowell Health Alliance, YWCA of Greater Lawrence, and the Non-Profit Alliance of Greater Lowell.

Sheila holds multiple degrees and certifications including, a Bachelors in Community Health from UMass Lowell, Master's degree in Public Health from Boston University, an Advanced Certificate in Financial Operations from Suffolk University and most recently, completed the LEADS economic and leadership program with the Harvard Business School and the Lawrence Partnership. Sheila also holds Massachusetts State Certification as a Community Health Worker. In addition, Sheila currently volunteers her time and expertise as a member of several non-profit boards and groups focused on philanthropy, social and economic justice, and racial equity.

Sheila will be joined in her leadership role at Community Teamwork by Board Officers, AleksandraTugbiyele, Vice Chair, Glenn Goldman, Treasurer, Bernadette Wheeler, Assistant Treasurer and Dennis Piendak, as Clerk of the Board.

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About Community Teamwork

Community Teamwork is a catalyst for social change. Our driving mission is to help people help themselves with childcare, family supports, nutrition, fuel assistance, housing, skills training, employment, financial education, and individual asset and small business development. As a Community Action Agency, a Regional Housing Agency, and a Community Development Corporation, Community Teamwork helps nearly 54,000 individuals from 71 cities and towns in northeastern Massachusetts gain greater economic independence. For more information, please visit www.commteam.org.

About Lowell Community Health Center

Founded in 1970, Lowell CHC serves as the “family doctor” for nearly half of Lowell’s population, seeking to “provide caring, quality, and culturally rooted health services to the people of Greater Lowell, regardless of their financial status.” For information, visit www.lchealth.org or call 978.937.9700