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Big Cities Health Coalition Adds Seven New Members; Now Impacts 1 in 6 Americans

Washington, DC – The Big Cities Health Coalition announced today the addition of seven new members: Alameda County Public Health Department in Oakland; Kansas City (MO) Health Department; Minneapolis Health Department; Multnomah County Health Department in Portland (OR); Sacramento County Public Health Department; Southern Nevada Health District in Las Vegas; and Tarrant County Health Department in Fort Worth, Texas.

“We are so proud to welcome these seven distinguished health departments to the Big Cities Health Coalition,” said Deputy Director Chrissie Juliano, MPP. “They represent a diverse group of urban centers and bring innovation and know-how to help us all build a healthier America.”

Muntu Davis, MD, MPH leads the Alameda County Public Health Department in Oakland, California. He advises the County Board of Supervisors, local government agencies, and community members and organizations on medical and public health issues as well as on the development and implementation of public health policy and practices. Throughout his medical and public health career, Dr. Davis has sought to advance health equity and address the social determinants of health.

Rex D. Archer, MD, MPH is Director of Health for the Kansas City Health Department. He has been part of numerous national public health committees and helped the Kansas City Health Department become one of the first in the nation to achieve accreditation. Dr. Archer has excelled in collaborating with community and faith-based organizations as well as in developing violence prevention strategies. He was recently recognized by the Missouri Public Health Department for his service to public health in Missouri.

Gretchen Musicant leads the Minneapolis Health Department, and her work helped the city become one of the inaugural Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health prize winners in 2012. She has chaired various state and regional efforts such as the Minnesota Local Public Health Association, the
Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency Board, and the Healthier Minnesota Community Clinic Fund.

Joanne Fuller, MSW serves as the Director of the Multnomah County Health Department in Portland, OR. Her work has focused on creating justice and access to opportunity for disfranchised people, particularly women and people of color. She also has a background in mental health services, juvenile justice, and domestic violence.

Olivia Kasirye, MD leads the Sacramento Country Public Health Department. Board Certified in Public Health and General Preventative Medicine, she received her degrees from the Makerere University Medical School in Uganda and from the University of California, Davis. She has previous leadership experience with child and adolescent health programs and disability prevention programs. Recently, Dr. Kasirye has been working to prevent chronic disease in Sacramento County as well as to improve safe and healthy housing.

Joseph P. Iser, MD, DrPH, MSc leads the Southern Nevada Health District in Las Vegas. He is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, General Preventive Medicine and Public Health, and Occupational Medicine. Much of his work in public health has focused on food outbreak investigations, pharmaceutical and device regulation, and hepatitis program development.

Veerinder “Vinny” Taneja, MBBS, MPH, joined the Tarrant County Public Health as its Director in 2014. His experience includes serving as Deputy Health Officer and Acting Director of the Wayne County Health Department in Michigan. Taneja has an international public health background as he earned his medical degree from the Manipal Academy of Higher Education in India and his Masters in Public Health from Eastern Kentucky University. He has extensive experience in public health informatics and a passion for addressing public health issues through a social determinants lens.

The Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) is a forum for the leaders of America’s largest metropolitan health departments. Members exchange strategies and jointly promote and protect the nation’s health and safety. Together, these public health officials serve one in six Americans. The BCHC is supported by the de Beaumont Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. For more information about BCHC, please visit www.bigcitieshealth.org.

The BCHC is a project of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), which represents the nation’s 2,800 local governmental health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well being for all people in their communities. For more information about NACCHO, please visit www.naccho.org.

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