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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **IPHCA Creates New Public Affairs Department, Names Cyrus Winnett Chief Public Affairs Officer**

**SPRINGFIELD, Ill., July 19, 2023** – Today, the Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA) announces the creation of a new public affairs department, which will be led by Cyrus Winnett, who has been promoted to Chief Public Affairs Officer. The new department will include staff members from the public policy and government affairs, and communications teams.

IPHCA leverages its expertise to educate, empower and advocate for Illinois' Community Health Centers (CHC) so every person and community across the state can access the cutting-edge, compassionate care they need to thrive. IPHCA's public policy and advocacy efforts are dedicated to promoting the value of CHCs to Illinois' elected officials, both on the state and federal levels. Ultimately this new department will advocate to support the work of its members and promote the value of CHCs.

Winnett joined IPHCA as Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Governmental Affairs in January 2019, after establishing himself in the Illinois healthcare industry. He began his career with the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities where he worked on policy and advocacy efforts for persons with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, mental illnesses and substance use disorders. He then went on to work for the Illinois Association of Medicaid Health Plans where he spearheaded Medicaid public policy conversations with public and private stakeholders.

"IPHCA has always had a government affairs team and a communications team," said Ollie Idowu, President and CEO at IPHCA. "Today, we formally bring these two groups under one umbrella to help firm up the roadmap we have for the association. Having always worked hand-in-hand, now there is a dedicated structure that will help the association move its members forward. And I am confident that Cyrus is the right person to manage this department."

"Working with my teams internally, as well as our members, I am excited to help continue to build a stronger, healthier Illinois," said Winnett. "To me, the greatest professional reward is knowing the work you do has a positive impact on others."

### **About the Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA)**

IPHCA is a nonprofit trade association that serves as the voice of and champion for Illinois' 53 community health centers, which serve more than 1.5 million patients annually across more than 400 service sites in medically underserved rural, urban, and suburban areas. [IPHCA.org](https://www.iphca.org)

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