The Candidate’s Forum provides a vehicle for candidates to introduce themselves to the membership prior to the Annual Convention. This year candidates will run for the offices of Chair-Elect, Treasurer, and Speaker of the House. NACHC officers serve on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors and carry out functions as prescribed in the NACHC Bylaws. One Health Center Board Member Representative and one Clinician Representative to the NACHC Board of Directors will also be nationally elected by the voting membership.

Voting will take place during the NACHC Community Health Institute (CHI) & EXPO (8/18-20) at the House of Delegates Meeting on Sunday, August 18, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. Organizational Members in good standing at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting (have paid at least one-quarter of their current year’s dues and have no outstanding dues balance from the previous year) are eligible to cast ballots. This year’s deadline for voting eligibility is Friday, July 19, 2019. Each Organizational Member receives four votes. For more information about dues or voting status, please contact the NACHC Membership Department at 301-347-0400.

Candidate for Chair-Elect

*(This Executive Committee Office is held for a two-year term)*

Michael A. Holmes
Chief Executive Officer
Cook Area Health Services, Inc.
Cook, Minnesota

Forty years ago, our community had its physicians leave. Our search for answers to the shortage of primary care providers led us to the Community Health Center program. We opened our first health center on May 1, 1979 and I have been the CEO of our organization since then.

We operate our CHC sites in a sparsely populated area of northern Minnesota and I am acutely aware of the issues in providing access to quality primary care services for all patients. While the Affordable Care Act has helped us respond to the ever-growing need for primary care services in our underserved communities, challenges remain. We must preserve our gains and adapt to the ever-changing health care environment. Throughout the years, CHCs have had to adjust to continuous change in reimbursements. We now face the uncertainty of major system delivery change and the possibility of the ACA being replaced with either an undefined plan or the alternative of a single-payer system. I also believe that states and corporations will have larger roles in determining the delivery of health care.

I am running for Chair-Elect of NACHC. For the last 5 years, I have been the NACHC Treasurer and I chair both the Finance and the Health Policy Committees. I was the Parliamentarian in 2007-2009 and a Region V Board Member from 1988-1991.

For more than 40 years, NACHC has worked to increase access to health care for our patients and communities by securing support and resources for us. Through dedication and teamwork, we have made great advances in caring for the nation’s underserved populations, but there is much left to do. We must continue to prove our value and we must be ever vigilant in protecting the access to care for our patients.

I ask for your support.
Candidate for Speaker of the House
(This Executive Committee Office is held for a two-year term)

Henry Taylor, MPA
Executive Director
Mile Square Health Center
Chicago, Illinois

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for NACHC’s Speaker of the House, and I ask for your vote. As Executive Director of the Mile Square Health Center for nearly 20 years, I have gained a clear understanding of the national policies and issues facing community health centers. As a long-time individual and organizational member of NACHC, I am committed to NACHC’s mission and organizational objectives.

I am the Chair of the Illinois Primary Health Care Association Legislation & Public Policy Committee. It is my pleasure to assist in the legislative and strategic planning for IPHCA and I look forward to the opportunity to continue doing this for NACHC. I have served as a Region V Representative on the NACHC Board of Directors and serve on numerous NACHC Committees, including Legislative, Rules, Bylaws, Health Center Excellence and Training, Membership, and the Health Care in Public Housing Task Force. I have also served on the Health Policy Committee.

Currently, I serve as NACHC’s Speaker of the House. I would like to continue as this experience has given me a broad look at the national issues facing health centers. If re-elected, I will continue bringing important matters to the table. I will work diligently to ensure that the NACHC agenda remains in line with the true needs of health centers throughout the nation – even as these needs continue to evolve. Community health centers have provided health care homes to millions of patients for over 50 years.

I am committed to making the future viability of health centers a priority. Thank you for your consideration and your vote.
I am very excited to have the opportunity to seek the Treasurer position for NACHC. I am looking forward to continuing to lend my support to strengthen and continue to grow the community health center movement.

The national health care environment is constantly changing, and at a rapid pace. This presents many opportunities as well as challenges. HRSA is asking a proactive question of what health centers should look like in the future. This gives us the opportunity to determine the most effective and efficient delivery and reimbursement models to increase patient access. The financial challenges we face are real to continue to sustain our program. With the current strong economy, we are experiencing an increase in competition for our staff and having to pay higher wages to retain our dedicated employees. The increased focus on compliance is resulting in more of our limited dollars being spent in this area. We must assure that our message of cost effectiveness and value is heard by our state Medicaid programs.

I’ve worked with and for community health centers for over 28 years. My leadership skills and extensive background in accounting and finance with community health centers will help to create a strategic plan to move health centers forward now and in the coming years.

I feel extremely fortunate to be able to share a common vision of providing access to health care with my outstanding and talented colleagues across our country. I am confident, working together, we will continue to strengthen and increase access to quality health care to the communities we serve. I will be honored if I am elected Treasurer and will be committed to doing my best to assist our health centers and patients to assure coverage and access for all.
Candidate for Health Center Board Member Representative to the NACHC Board of Directors
(Two-year term)

Virginia (Ginger) Fuata
Board Member
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Services
Waianae, Hawaii

Me ‘oukou ka welina o ke aloha (I greet you with grace and humility):

I am seeking re-election as your Consumer Board Member Representative for the National Association of Community Health Centers.

It has been an honor to serve in this capacity for these past four years. I have diligently served throughout the years in the health center movement on the national, state, as well as on the health center levels, ever mindful that “health care is a universal right” for all people across the nation.

As your representative, I am still committed to “breaking down the barriers” that prevent patient access to quality and affordable care, responding to community needs through generated resources, gathering and disseminating vital information needed to coordinate patient-centered care, creating capacity among consumers and patients, and most importantly, hearing and listening to the concerned voices throughout our community.

I believe and continue to stand on the belief that I have the ability to make meaningful contributions that will significantly make a difference in the lives of all people. I “learn”, I “do”, and I “plan” meaning “I learn from the past; I do in the present; I plan for the future.”

I am grateful to all the leaders and pioneers of this great nation of ours who have set forth and walked this path before me, those who themselves have learned, done, and planned with perseverance, dedication and hard work for the people of this nation.

Humbly, I submit and seek your support.

NACHC HOUSE OF DELEGATES
SUNDAY, AUGUST 18
HYATT REGENCY CHICAGO
CHICAGO, IL
Candidate for Clinician Representative to the NACHC Board of Directors
(Two-year term)

Felix Valbuena, MD
Chief Executive Officer
Community Health and Social Services
Detroit, Michigan

For the past 30 years, I have had the honor and privilege of working for the Community Health and Social Services (CHASS) Center, the pillar of health care celebrating 49 years of service to the Southwest Detroit community. Serving first as a social worker and resident of the community we serve, then as a family physician and Chief Medical Officer, and now as the Chief Executive Officer; my roles as safety net provider and clinician leader bring me great joy and satisfaction. Together with the CHASS Care Team, we provide comprehensive patient-centered primary health care and support services to the Southwest Community of Detroit.

I also serve as Academic Faculty in the Department of Family Medicine of Henry Ford Hospital. The collaborative relationship that CHASS has with Henry Ford Health System, a world-renowned medical institution, serves as a national model of quality, affordable, accessible healthcare for our community.

Having gone through many changes and initiatives throughout the years, it is clear that the National Association of Community Health Centers continues to play a vital role in putting community health centers on the center stage in our ever-changing health care arena. I have served on the Health Policy Committee from 2008-2013 and 2016-present, and on the Clinical Practice Committee since 2008, as Co-Vice Chair from 2012-2013, Vice Chair from 2014-2015, and Chair from 2016-present.

It would be a great honor for me to continue to serve, with your support, as an elected Clinician Representative and work with all of our stakeholders in the effort to continue to move community health centers as national models for the delivery of comprehensive patient-centered primary healthcare.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONTINUING FOR 2019-2020

Chair of the Board: Lathran J. Woodard, Columbia, SC
Immediate Past Chair: James Luisi, Boston, MA
Vice-Speaker of the House: Kimberly Chang, MD, Oakland, CA
Secretary: Paloma Hernandez, Bronx, NY
Consumer/Board Member Representative: Yvonne Davis, Florence, SC
NACHC CANDIDATES’ FORUM 2019
Election Sunday, August 18
NACHC House of Delegates
Hyatt Regency Chicago
Chicago, Illinois