



MEMO

TO: NACHC Organizational Members, Primary Care Associations, and Health Center Controlled Network Members
FROM: Lathran Johnson Woodard, Chair of the Board
Tom Van Coverden, President and CEO
DATE: May 4, 2020
RE: 2020 NACHC Community Health Institute and Expo (CHI)

With great regret, the NACHC Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 NACHC Community Health Institute & Expo (CHI) in San Diego, CA. After considering all the pros and cons, the decision reconfirms our first priority: *to keep our members, staff, and their families and colleagues safe and healthy – and of equal importance, the well-being of our patients and communities who need us to continue to meet their health needs.* We wanted to provide as much advance notice as possible so people can avoid incurring travel costs.

All of us recognize the value of coming together through on-site conferences to set our unified agenda, gain new insights and information, learn from one another, and pursue and share solutions to common problems. There is no substitute for renewing old friendships and meeting new colleagues. We have built the health center movement on the strength of working together to surmount any and all challenges, and we recognize that this is an essential part of NACHC's mission.

However, the decisive factors in the Board's decision came down to 1) wanting to ensure the safety of participants traveling to and from all areas of the country and 2) the increase in workload that health centers will likely face this summer due to the states opening up their restrictions. As existing patients return for deferred care and additional newly unemployed patients seek care, asking people to leave escalating demands to come to a conference would be short sighted.

NACHC staff are already working on what they CAN do to bring as much of the benefits of the conference as possible to you on a virtual basis. We will have more information on this later in May. Features we are considering include virtual general sessions (live and recorded) to set our direction and strategies, a full education program (including the latest information on COVID-19 issues), peer-to-peer events, board member boot camp, federal updates, an advocacy rally, the Primary Care Association/Health Center Controlled Networks general session, selected committee meetings, and maybe even a virtual exhibit hall. Since we are unfettered by the limitations of an on-site conference agenda, we are exploring how best to structure the virtual experience. Stay tuned!

Finally, let us say how proud we are of your work to combat the virus and to continue to provide ongoing and badly needed primary care to the greatest extent possible in your communities. The country would be in much greater peril without your sacrifices, and we will come through this with your steadfast efforts. It is our intent to present the virtual meeting in August to solidify our united strategies for that work.

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