



**Northeast Valley
Health Corporation**
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NEVHC APPOINTS VETERAN DIRECTOR OF PEDIATRICS AS NEW CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

San Fernando, CA – Dr. Christine Park has been named as the new Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Northeast Valley Health Corporation (NEVHC). She has been the Medical Director of Pediatrics for the past 12 of her 14 years as an NEVHC pediatrician.

Dr. Park will take on the role being vacated by Dr. Richard L. Seidman, who is leaving NEVHC after five years as its CMO. Dr. Seidman has been appointed CMO of L.A. Care Health Plan.

“Dr. Park is very experienced in our marketplace and truly understands the challenges of being a safety net provider,” said Kimberly Wyard, NEVHC CEO. “Her work has been very instrumental in NEVHC’s success. Her passion for community health care and her experience made her an ideal candidate.

“We will truly miss Dr. Seidman and will be forever grateful for his leadership,” Wyard continued. “I am confident that Dr. Park will be a great CMO, who will help guide NEVHC into its future.”

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Dr. Park, 42, graduated from UC Berkeley with a Bachelor of Arts in Molecular/Cell Biology before attending UCLA School of Medicine. She completed the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Combined Pediatrics and Public Health Residency Program, and received her Master of Public Health degree from UCLA before becoming a full-time NEVHC pediatrician in 2003.

“I am extremely honored and thankful for the opportunity to serve as the CMO of one of the largest community health centers in the nation,” said Dr. Park. “I have always taken on management projects unrelated to pediatrics, just for personal interest and growth. So I see this promotion as a natural progression.”

As the Medical Director of Pediatrics, Dr. Park spent about 50 percent of her time providing care to hundreds of patients at Pacoima Health Center. Seeing the children and having the one-on-one contact with the families are what attracted her to pediatric medicine. She will have less time with patients when she takes over as CMO on March 17, and that is what she will miss the most.

Dr. Park knows her biggest challenge as CMO will be recruiting and retaining providers, especially adult medicine providers, for NEVHC’s 14 health centers in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys. Just like other community health centers in the nation, NEVHC has a shortage of providers to meet the community’s need for adult medicine. Her plan calls for being at more career fairs and training programs so that more people entering the medical field will know about NEVHC and its important role in community health care.

“We also need to retain the excellent talent we have so we can accommodate our patient population,” Dr. Park said. “I want to be as present as possible and be at the health centers with the providers to see the excellent work they do and listen to their concerns so that I can best represent

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them. I'm very excited to continue working with an awesome staff in an expanded role."

For Dr. Park, working at a community health center is where she feels most comfortable because of her interest and passion in public health. She recalls her early days at UC Berkeley where she would post weekly health education messages on bulletin boards for her dorm mates. And, even though she didn't decide to go into pediatrics until her third year in medical school, all her friends knew "kids were her thing."

"I really love what I do," she said smiling. "I love the juxtaposition – seeing patients with the bigger picture of being able to improve the health of the larger population."

The Northern California native and her husband, Chris, have two boys, Timmy, 13, and Matthew, 10. She and her husband are board members of the La Canada Baseball Softball Association. When she is not being a baseball mom on the weekends, Dr. Park enjoys swimming. She recently completed her first triathlon.

NEVHC, a nonprofit, federally funded community health center serving the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys, provides health care in communities with a known shortage of health professionals to care for local residents. Since 1973, NEVHC has reduced barriers to care and improved health outcomes for all patients by providing safe, quality health care with comprehensive medical, dental, behavioral health, nutritional counseling and health education services.

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