



National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

May 30, 2018

CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention and Treatment
CDC Designated Federal Officer – Jonathan Mermin, MD, MPH
HRSA Designated Federal Officer – Laura W. Cheever, MD, ScM

Re: Nomination for Appointment of Dr. William S. Paul to the CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention and Treatment (CHAC)

Dear Drs. Mermin and Cheever,

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is pleased to nominate William S. Paul, MD, MPH to serve as a member of the CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention and Treatment (CHAC). NACCHO represents the nation's nearly 3,000 local governmental health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal health departments work every day to protect and promote the health and well-being for all people in their communities. The work of local health departments is critical to ensuring that the most vulnerable receive access to HIV, viral hepatitis, and STI prevention, care, and treatment services.

Dr. Paul is the Director of the Metro Public Health Department in Nashville, Tennessee, which is the local public health agency for Nashville and Davidson County. He has served in this position since 2007. Prior to this position, Dr. Paul served in a variety of positions with the Chicago Department of Public Health from 1992-2007, including leadership positions with Communicable Disease, Tuberculosis Control, the Infectious Disease Division, and Epidemiology and Disease Control. Dr. Paul was an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Vector-Borne Infectious Disease, from 1990-1992. He received a Bachelor of Science from Stanford University and his Medical Degree and Master of Public Health from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Paul completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at the University of Wisconsin, and his fellowship in infectious diseases at the University of Illinois and University of Chicago.

Dr. Paul will bring a breadth and depth of relevant and important experience and expertise to the CHAC, and his membership on the CHAC will ensure that the local health department perspective is represented in the work of this important federal advisory committee to the Secretary, HHS; the Director, CDC; and the Administrator, HRSA. Further, he will provide valuable insight about HIV, viral hepatitis, and STI prevention, care, and treatment from the perspective of a local health department in the Southern United States, and he can speak to the challenges of securing access to HIV, viral hepatitis, and STI prevention, care, and treatment services in a non-Medicaid expansion state.



In addition to being a local public health leader in Tennessee, Dr. Paul provides leadership to his peers and partners across the country. Dr. Paul has served as a member of the NACCHO Board of Directors since 2014, contributing valuable insight on local health department management and operations and leadership to NACCHO's efforts to serve as the national voice for local health departments. Dr. Paul's peers on the Board of Directors know that they can rely on his expertise in matters relating to NACCHO's HIV, viral hepatitis, and STI work, such as when reviewing NACCHO policy statements for board approval or advocating for federal funding and evidence-based policies for HIV, viral hepatitis, and STI prevention, care, and treatment. Dr. Paul is a well-liked contributor to the group because he grounds his comments in evidence-based practice while recognizing the realities of the day-to-day work of local health departments.

Dr. Paul provided valuable feedback during the board's review of NACCHO's newly developed [HIV Prevention, Care, and Treatment Policy Statement](#), in February 2018. As a result of his input, the key messages of the policy statement were strengthened and support for the Undetectable=Untransmittable (U=U) campaign was added to NACCHO's list of recommended actions for local health departments to take toward ending the HIV epidemic in their jurisdictions. Dr. Paul has been very active in Nashville's efforts to end the HIV epidemic. In advance of World AIDS Day in 2017, Dr. Paul wrote an article for the *Tennessean* titled "[Ways to end the HIV epidemic in Nashville and beyond.](#)" In the article, he notes that "We need to ensure our services are affirming and welcoming for every client. We also need to end societal messages that devalue men and women of color and LGBTQ individuals, and consistently counter any impulse to think that any person in Nashville deserves anything other than a healthy life and unfettered access to care and support...We must affirm and empower expertise and leadership from communities at risk of HIV." To be successful in our efforts to end the HIV epidemic, we must work together, and Dr. Paul is leading by example in Nashville.

In April 2018, the Mayor of Nashville, David Briley, [announced](#) the appointment of the city's first Ending the Epidemic Task Force. The task force was created in conjunction with the Office of the Mayor, the Metro Public Health Department, and community stakeholders in response to the Ending the Epidemic Summit, which was held in December 2017. The task force is dedicated to improving access to care and services for those living with HIV and expanding prevention strategies to eliminate future infections. Of the announcement, Dr. Paul said, "At the Metro Public Health Department, we see ourselves as part of a care team with one patient – the city of Nashville. Through the Ending the Epidemic process, we are making a commitment to identifying the barriers to treatment and care and developing those interventions that will lead us on a path to End the HIV epidemic in our community once and for all." Nashville is participating in an ending the epidemic cohort with other southern jurisdictions that are receiving assistance from the Treatment Action Group and the Southern AIDS Coalition.

Over the past year, NACCHO has had the pleasure of working closely with Dr. Paul and his staff on a CDC Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) funded project to increase the capacity of local health departments to prevent HIV and STDs in adolescents through CDC-developed school-based approaches for health education, health services, and safe and supportive environments. The Metro Public Health Department, in partnership with Metro Nashville Public Schools and Alignment Nashville, successfully applied for a funding opportunity that NACCHO provided as part of its DASH-funded project. The health department's application focused on creating safe and supportive

environments for students, particularly those at disproportionate risk for HIV and STIs. The health department is leading the effort, which includes training teachers, administrators, and school district staff about social emotional learning and adolescent sexual health; positioning youth voice to lead systems change; and engaging community stakeholders to support HIV and STI prevention among youth. Dr. Paul has been highly supportive of this work, which is led by the Director of Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health at the Metro Public Health Department. His support for the project has been instrumental in its success.

Dr. Paul has also been heavily involved in responding to the opioid epidemic in Nashville/Davidson County and across Tennessee. Tennessee ranks second in the nation for opioid abuse, and while Nashville/Davidson County was not among the 220 counties identified by the CDC as most vulnerable to the rapid dissemination of HIV and viral hepatitis among persons who inject drugs, 41 other counties in Tennessee were among the 220. Tennessee is one of the four states identified in the vulnerability assessment with more than 15% of their population living in a vulnerable county. Dr. Paul recently spoke at an educational luncheon sponsored by the American College of Healthcare Executives Middle Tennessee, where he emphasized trauma-informed care and addressed issues related to a patient's trauma history, such as adverse childhood events, and a community's response to this. He highlighted the need to not marginalize victims of the epidemic and decrease the stigma associated with addiction. Dr. Paul also addressed the significant downstream costs of opioid addiction, such as HIV and hepatitis C.

I am confident that Dr. Paul has the experience and expertise to be an active and valuable member of the CHAC, would provide a unique perspective to the Committee, and serve as an important link to the realities of local public health practice. I look forward to continuing NACCHO's important relationship with the CHAC through Dr. Paul's service. Please contact Gretchen Weiss, Director, HIV, STI, and Viral Hepatitis, at gweiss@naccho.org with any questions about this nomination.

Thank you in advance for considering Dr. Paul for one of the four slots that are open on the CHAC. Dr. Paul is willing and eager to serve as a member of the Committee. Dr. Paul's resume is included and his contact information is:

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Sincerely,



Lori Tremmel Freeman, MBA
Chief Executive Officer