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HealthFinders Collaborative Welcomes Four Community Leaders to Board of Directors

FARIBAULT (January 30, 2020) — As 2020 kicks off, HealthFinders Collaborative (HFC) is excited to announce that four new members have joined the board of directors. These new members were elected at HFC's November 2019 board meeting to serve on the board of directors. As a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity, HealthFinders is governed by a volunteer board of directors, and the four new members will join the existing board of 13. "Our new board members represent a broad and varied spectrum of the Rice County community, and we look forward to their guidance and input as we move forward during this very exciting time for HealthFinders," says HealthFinders Board Chair Stephen Pribyl. "Their passion and expertise will blend nicely with our already robust and dynamic board of directors."

Below are the profiles of the four new board members.

Royal Ross of Faribault

Royal Ross works in the real estate industry as a Realtor and Certified Homeowner Association Manager. He is also a member of the Faribault City Council. He has owned and managed small businesses, taught for South Central College at the Faribault prison, and has a strong history of civic engagement, having served on a number of boards, commissions, and governmental functions.

"The great thing about HealthFinders is that people work together for the purpose of improving the quality of life for other people in our own communities," says Ross. "The organization is an excellent example of service to others while providing staple health care that is desperately needed."

With a Bachelor of Science degree in finance from Minnesota State University Mankato and a Master's degree in business administration from the University of St. Thomas, Ross is well-positioned to effectively evaluate and create organizational policy, change, and operations for HealthFinders.

Muse Farah of Northfield

Muse Farah is the director of the House of Wisdom Senior Center in Northfield.

"With my experience and background, I hope to have an impact on better serving our region's East African communities," Farah says.

Muse served as a board member for African Community Economic Development of Washington and has experience in policy development.

Dr. Brian Wariboko of Faribault

Dr. Brian Wariboko is a primary care provider at Mayo Clinic Health System Faribault, where he works every day to meet the needs of the community in preventive care and mental health. He says that because of his everyday work he is aware of the barriers to care that exist in our

community. With his presence on the board, he hopes to bring a hands-on perspective that can help design unique and innovative solutions to health care access obstacles.

Dr. Wariboko is driven by two things – a desire to reach the underserved and a strong belief in a collaborative approach to patient care – which aligns well with the mission-driven work of HealthFinders.

“Being part of an organization which seeks to serve those with limited resources by finding and leveraging available resources in the community seems tailor-made for me,” says Dr. Wariboko of his position on the HFC board.

Karen Zeller of Faribault

Karen Zeller has always had an interest in working with and for people who have difficulty accessing needed services due to circumstances that are oftentimes beyond their control. That is the primary reason she and her husband started Cedar House, Inc., a mental health center serving Rice, Freeborn, Steele, Carver, Mower and Scott Counties. The center has a staff of approximately 55 people and serves a client base of around 400 (adults and children) suffering from mental illness.

With a career of mental health services under her belt and time to devote in retirement, Zeller looks forward to serving on the HealthFinders board, recognizing that there is a growing need for health and wellness services, as life becomes complicated for those in our community. In addition to holding the CEO position of Cedar House Inc. for nearly 25 years, Zeller has served on a variety of different boards – ranging from Big Brothers and Big Sisters to the Loon Lake Homeowners’ Association to the Advisory Board for the University of Minnesota Athletic Director.

About HealthFinders Collaborative

HealthFinders Collaborative (HFC), is a community health center which provides a comprehensive primary access point to health services for the marginalized families of Rice County. Through primary care, medication assistance, patient education and advocacy, and community-based wellness programming, HFC works across the continuum of wellness to collaborate and engage communities in their own health. In 2018, HealthFinders provided medical and dental care valued at over \$575,000. While patients and insurance were able to cover a portion of that care, donors supported over \$400,000 in discounts, so no patient was turned away.

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