

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR GLENN JACOBS



MEDIA RELEASE

KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mashburn and Menefee promoted to lead KCHD's nursing and communicable disease divisions

Knoxville, Tenn. – Two Knox County Health Department (KCHD) employees have been promoted to lead newly defined divisions at the organization. Dena Mashburn, a family nurse practitioner and formerly KCHD's clinical services manager, has been promoted to director of nursing. Charity Menefee, formerly KCHD's regional hospital coordinator, has been promoted to director of communicable and environmental disease.

"Dena and Charity have demonstrated exemplary service to our community. And I have no doubt they will make outstanding additions to our leadership team," said KCHD Director Dr. Martha Buchanan. "Their knowledge of public health combined with their management and analytical skills will serve our organization well as we work to address our community's priority health issues."

Mashburn's new responsibilities include overseeing KCHD's nursing protocols and procedures, preventive health clinics, Immunization Program, and maternal and child health services. She has worked as a nurse and nurse practitioner in a variety of settings for more than 30 years, including public health for the past eight years. As KCHD's clinical services manager, Mashburn was integral in implementing many of the organization's lean process improvements and efficiencies. She also initiated numerous professional development learning opportunities for clinical staff. A board-certified family nurse practitioner, Mashburn received her master's degree in nursing from Texas Woman's University.

Serving in public health for nearly 19 years, Menefee is overseeing KCHD's Communicable Disease Clinic, Centers of Excellence, Hepatitis C Program and Epidemiology division. Previously as the regional hospital coordinator, Menefee oversaw emergency response planning for area health care partners; this work included coordinating one of the nation's largest mass casualty response drills. Menefee is also a major and public health officer in the 134th Air Refueling Wing of the Tennessee Air National Guard, managing communicable disease surveillance and outbreaks for the guard. She has a master's degree in security studies from the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security.

Previously, all clinical services reported to the director of clinical health. The Epidemiology division reported to the director of community assessment and planning. These two former directors recently left to pursue other opportunities. While Mashburn and Menefee filled the two vacant positions, the divisions they oversee have been realigned.



“We are committed to serving our community through innovation, excellence and integrity, and that includes consistently reviewing our organization to identify how we can be more efficient and effective,” added Buchanan. “I’m excited about this realignment and how it will position us to better respond to the challenges that lie ahead.”

About Knox County Health Department

As the first health department in Tennessee to achieve national voluntary accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is dedicated to ensuring the conditions in which every resident can be healthy. KCHD investigates disease outbreaks, identifies community health threats, conducts extensive outreach and education, prepares for public health emergencies, provides and connects the public with medical care, enforces food safety and air quality laws, and more. For more information, visit www.knoxcounty.org/health.

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