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Lisa (Weichman) Harries Joining IHA to Lead on Health Equity

Naperville, IL—The Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA) has announced that Lisa (Weichman) Harries will join IHA as Assistant Vice President of Health Equity and Policy in January 2022. Harries will be responsible for developing, evaluating and implementing policy proposals and advocacy strategies to address healthcare disparities and inequities in Illinois and facilitating and managing IHA’s initiatives to advance health equity.

While IHA and the Illinois hospital community have worked on health equity issues for many years, as part of IHA’s increased commitment to addressing health equity issues and challenges and to eliminate health disparities across the state, Harries will be IHA’s first leader completely dedicated to health equity.

“We are excited that Lisa (Weichman) Harries is joining the Illinois Health and Hospital Association to support and strengthen the hospital community’s critical efforts and commitment to advance health equity and eliminate health disparities,” said IHA President & CEO A.J. Wilhelmi. “Lisa has extensive experience and has long been passionate about addressing health disparities and transforming the role of the health system to improve community health.”

Harries is currently Director of Employee & Corporate Health Services at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago where she leads their COVID-19 healthcare worker operations, including the COVID-19 vaccine roll out. Harries joined Rush following her consulting work at Root Inc. (part of Accenture) with large health systems as well as West Side United, a collaborative of six hospitals working in partnership with the community to address social determinants of health and close the life expectancy gap on Chicago’s West Side. She facilitated planning and operational meetings for West Side United with community members, community-based organizations and health system executive leadership to develop the collaborative’s strategy and vision.

“The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent vaccination efforts have exposed not only the glaring inequities in communities of color but also the disparities in the availability and accessibility of quality patient care across the state,” said Harries. “I look forward to joining the IHA team and working with the hospital community to overcome systemic barriers, challenge the effectiveness of current interventions and policies, and promote quality patient care for all Illinoisans.”

Harries recently completed a double Executive Master’s in Health Policy where she received a master’s in Public Policy from the University of Chicago’s Harris School of Public Policy and a master’s of Health Policy, Economics and Management from the London School of Economics. She received her bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Psychology, with a minor in Health and Gender Studies, from the University of Michigan.

[To download a photo of Lisa (Weichman) Harries, [click here](#).]

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About IHA

The Illinois Health and Hospital Association, with offices in Chicago, Naperville, Springfield and Washington, D.C., advocates for Illinois' more than 200 hospitals and nearly 40 health systems as they serve their patients and communities. IHA members provide a broad range of services—not just within their walls, but across the continuum of healthcare and in their communities. Reflecting the diversity of the state, IHA members consist of nonprofit, investor-owned, and public hospitals in the following categories: community, safety net, rural, critical access, specialty, and teaching hospitals, including academic medical centers. For more information, see www.team-iha.org. Like IHA on [Facebook](#). Follow IHA on [Twitter](#).