

# New CEO named at Lowell Community Health Center

*By Amelia Pak-Harvey from the Lowell Sun*

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LOWELL -- Lowell Community Health Center has named a top Johns Hopkins University adviser as its new CEO, ending a search to replace outgoing 18-year leader Dorcas Grigg-Saito.

The health center's board has named Susan West Levine to the top position. She currently serves as chief of staff to the Johns Hopkins University provost, where she recently helped launch a faculty diversity initiative.

"I am absolutely delighted to join the health center, and to become a member of the health center and working on behalf of the community in Lowell," she said. "And more importantly, honoring the great work of Dorcas' legacy. I think that will be a privilege."

Levine has experience in Massachusetts health care. She previously served as chief executive of the non-profit UHealth Solutions, the UMass Medical School affiliate that offers administrative services for health-care organizations.

Before that, she worked in executive positions at Commonwealth Medicine, UMass Medical School's health-care consulting arm.

In her first 90 days, Levine said she hopes to engage with community partners and supporters. She will start around the beginning of July.

One challenge she sees for the center is the federal funding landscape, which she said is always challenging for health centers.

The health center did not provide Levine's salary, although The Sun recently reported Grigg-Saito's 2014 salary was \$161,078.

Board Chairman Bruce Robinson said Levine impressed the board as an "eloquent and passionate spokesperson and advocate" for the health center's mission.



West Levine

"She brings a depth and breadth of experience from many vantage points across the health-care system that gives us confidence in her ability to manage both the day-to-day, and confidence also in her unique vision for how Lowell Community Health Center can grow and thrive as the health-care environment changes in the future," Robinson said in a statement.

Grigg-Saito, set to retire in May, said she looks forward to working with Levine to assure a smooth transition.

"I am grateful to the Search Committee for identifying a candidate who can not only move the health center forward, but who has a true commitment to public health," she said in a statement.

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5 things to know about Community Health Center's new CEO

\* Levine has a bachelor's degree in economics from Denison University, and a master's in public health from Boston University School of Public Health.

\* She was inspired to go into public health through her work at Lemuel Shattuck Hospital in Jamaica Plain, where she worked in her 20s and was exposed to a diverse patient population.

\* She was chosen among 55 interested candidates using the search firm ZurickDavis.

\* Will live in Maynard with her husband, assistant principal of Pollard Middle School in Needham.

\* One goal she has for the center: look at the "critical factors" that will face health care in the next few years, and develop a strategic plan to guide the center