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Sam Chase to Direct Coalition of Community Health Clinics

The Coalition of Community Health Clinics (CCHC) announced today that it selected Sam Chase as its new Executive Director.

Chase brings more than fifteen years of nonprofit and policy development experience as a champion for vulnerable populations.

He founded the Affordable Housing Now! initiative to secure more than \$150 million in new resources for affordable housing in Portland. As the executive director the Oregon Opportunity Network, a 125 member coalition of public, private and nonprofit organizations, he led efforts to secure and streamline funding sources, improve best practices, and increase their nonprofit member portfolios to more than 10,000 collective affordable housing units.

“We are delighted to have Sam leading our team. He is skilled in the nuts and bolts of organizing coalitions, nonprofit management, and policy development. But more importantly, he will bring a solid history of collaboration, innovation, and strategic thinking to the health care arena,” said Lisa Cline, CCHC Board Co-Chair.

In a rapidly changing health care climate, Chase will lead CCHC’s charge to improve access to quality health care for uninsured and underserved populations. “Exciting changes are underway in health care, but it’s a fact that thousands are now and will remain chronically underserved without our help. The Coalition of Community Health Clinics will be here to make sure health care changes result in high quality, well coordinated, and accessible care to our most vulnerable citizens,” said Sam Chase, “I am honored to be a part of this team.”

CCHC’s mission is to improve access to quality health services for vulnerable populations. The coalition is comprised of 13 community health clinics serving more than 46,000 patients annually in the Portland area. The clinics are dedicated to providing care to vulnerable populations in the communities they serve, especially those with low-incomes and without health insurance.

Chase will complete his transition from Chief of Staff to Commissioner Nick Fish and officially begin as Executive Director on July 26, 2010.

Chase’s work history also includes senior policy advisor to former City Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury; and staff to Kitzhaber for Governor, Yes on Portland School Bonds!, and Erik Sten for City Council.

His past board experience includes Coalition for a Livable Future, Housing Development Center, Northwest Neighborhood Association, Oregon League of Conservation Voters Multnomah County, X-PAC, and Portland Community Land Trust.

Chase lives in Northwest Portland with his wife, Meredith, and daughters, Zoe and Tatum.

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