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## **Legacy Community Health's Chree Boydston and Vernicka Sales named 'Women Who Mean Business' honorees by Houston Business Journal**

**HOUSTON, TX (October 18, 2024)** – Today, [Legacy Community Health](https://LegacyCommunityHealth.org) proudly announces that two of its esteemed leaders, Chree Boydston, Chief Development Officer, and Dr. Vernicka Porter-Sales, Chief of Population Health and Legacy Performance Services Officer, have been honored as 2024 'Women Who Mean Business' by the *Houston Business Journal*. This prestigious award recognizes exceptional women across nine industries who have demonstrated excellence in their careers, community involvement, leadership, and contributions to their companies.

Dr. Robert Hilliard, Jr., Chief Executive Officer of Legacy Community Health, praised both honorees, stating, "Chree Boydston and Dr. Vernicka Porter-Sales exemplify the leadership, innovation, and dedication that fuel Legacy's continued success in the Texas Gulf Coast region. Their recognition as 'Women Who Mean Business' is a testament to their tireless efforts, and I am privileged to work alongside these outstanding individuals as we strive to expand access to quality healthcare across our communities."

### **Chree Boydston, Chief Development Officer**

Over her two-decade career at Legacy, Chree Boydston has played a pivotal role in the organization's growth and success. Through her leadership, Legacy has raised over \$350 million, helping expand the agency from just three locations to over 55 across Southeast Texas. Notably, Chree's team secured the largest gift in Legacy's history, a \$50 million contribution from Houston Methodist, which will fund new clinics in Pasadena and Acres Homes.

"It is a privilege to be recognized by the *Houston Business Journal* as a 'Woman Who Means Business,'" said Boydston. "Supporting Legacy in raising over \$350 million in the past two decades has been one of the greatest joys of my life—allowing our federally qualified health center to grow from just three locations to over 55 today. Without the support of our incredible sponsors and donors, such as Houston Methodist, this achievement would not have been possible. Thank you."

Chree's contributions extend beyond her work at Legacy, as she has served in numerous leadership roles with prominent organizations, including the M.D. Anderson Proton Therapy Center, Performing Arts Houston, and Southern Smoke Foundation, among others.

### **Dr. Vernicka Porter-Sales, Chief of Population Health and Legacy Performance Services Officer**

With over 20 years of clinical experience and a strong background in managed care, Dr. Vernicka Porter-Sales leads Legacy's population health initiatives and strategic care coordination. Under her guidance, Legacy has made significant strides in transitioning from a

fee-for-service model to value-based care, while prioritizing equitable health outcomes for underserved communities.

"As someone deeply committed to improving healthcare access and outcomes, receiving the Women Who Mean Business award from the *Houston Business Journal* is a profound honor," said Dr. Porter-Sales. "This recognition not only validates the impact of my work but also highlights the importance of fostering leadership and innovation in healthcare. I am grateful for this acknowledgment and even more inspired to continue advocating for health equity and excellence in the communities we serve."

Dr. Porter-Sales' extensive leadership at Legacy includes overseeing pharmacy services, managed care contracts, and value-based care initiatives. Her dedication to the health of Houston's most vulnerable communities, combined with her focus on innovative care models, has made her a key leader in the organization's mission.

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#### **About Legacy Community Health**

Legacy Community Health (Legacy) is a full-service network of community health clinics offering primary and specialty care in the Texas Gulf Coast region. Services include adult primary care, behavioral health services, community outreach, dental care, endocrinology, geriatrics, comprehensive HIV/AIDS care, nutrition and wellness, OB/GYN and maternity care, pediatrics, pharmacy, public health, school-based health, social services, and vision care. With more than 57 locations across Houston, Baytown, Deer Park, Stafford and Beaumont, Legacy is the largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Texas. Legacy has been a United Way-affiliated agency since 1990. To learn more, visit [www.legacycommunityhealth.org](http://www.legacycommunityhealth.org).