

THE KRAFT CENTER

for Community Health

As the Kraft Center for Community Health approaches its fifth anniversary, founding Executive Director, Derri Shtasel, MD, MPH, has decided to step down, effective June 30, 2017. The Kraft Center will also be moving its organizational home from Partners HealthCare to Massachusetts General Hospital. MGH President Peter L. Slavin, MD, announced that he has asked Elsie Taveras, MD, MPH, to be the next Executive Director of the Kraft Center. Joan Quinlan, Vice President for Community Health at MGH, will assume administrative oversight for the center.

The center was established in 2011 by a generous gift from Robert K. Kraft, and his late wife, Myra, to Partners HealthCare to expand access to high-quality, cost-effective health care for underserved patients, families and communities. Under Dr. Shtasel's leadership, the Kraft Center has made remarkable progress in achieving these objectives. In partnership with the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, the center has worked at the community-academic interface to enhance the capacity of community health centers and to develop a new generation of physician and nurse leaders committed to careers in community health. Over the past five years, the Kraft Center has established relationships with 25 community health and mental health centers in Greater Boston; will have graduated 60 evolving community health leaders; and disseminated its work locally, regionally and nationally through presentations, publications and community engagement.

"The Kraft Center is well positioned for continued success," said Dr. Shtasel. "Our relationships with the Mass League and with our community health center partners are strong. Our graduates are catalyzing great improvements in access and quality of care in our communities locally and nationally. I'm planning to refocus my energy in my home department [Psychiatry], and work to strengthen the MGH Division of Public and Community Psychiatry. Elsie and Joan have been wonderful partners and their leadership will ensure that the center will continue to thrive. I am confident that the Kraft Center will continue to do great work long into the future."

With guidance from the Kraft family, the Kraft Center Leadership Council and Advisory Board, Mass General Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and

Mass League of Community Health Centers' leaders, a strategic planning effort will be initiated to lead the Kraft Center into its next five years.

"We are very grateful to Dr. Shtasel for her leadership over the past five years and for the success of the center in training community-based health care leaders and providing access to the same life-saving, life-changing care that our family has been lucky enough to receive at Mass General, Brigham and Women's, and other world-class medical institutions in New England," said Robert K. Kraft, founder, chairman and CEO of the Kraft Group. "Our goal has always been to expand access to high-quality care and improve the health of disadvantaged groups, the working poor, the middle class. We believe the Center has begun to make that a reality, and we enthusiastically look forward to working with MGH and Dr. Taveras to continue the important work of the center."

Dr. Taveras is chief of the Division of General Academic Pediatrics at MGH and Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. She has extensive experience building clinical-community partnerships for chronic disease prevention and management. Her work has focused on developing interventions across the lifecourse to prevent obesity and chronic diseases, especially in underserved populations. In 2016, she received the Public Health Leadership in Medicine Award from the Massachusetts Public Health Association in recognition of her work improving health and health care in community-based settings. "The mission of the Kraft Center is very much aligned with my own beliefs that a person's income and zip code should not determine their health or the care they receive," said Dr. Taveras. "We look forward to continuing to implement this mission over the coming years."

Joan Quinlan has directed the MGH Center for Community Health Improvement for 21 years, leading the hospital's efforts to fully integrate community health into all of its missions including patient care, teaching and research, and to engage with local underserved communities to address challenging community-identified public health problems. Under her leadership in 2016, MGH won the Foster G. McGaw Prize for Excellence in Community Service from the American Hospital Association.