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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIVE COMMUNITY LEADERS HONORED AT 6TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S HEALTH & DOCTOR RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

CHARLOTTE, NC, March 19, 2024 – More than 300 guests gathered on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at the Hilton Uptown Charlotte hotel to honor and celebrate the achievements of five outstanding community leaders. Hosted by The C.W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc. (CWWCHC), the 6th Annual Women's Health & Doctor Recognition luncheon paid homage to Dr. Alma Adams, United States Congresswoman; Erica Bryant, Emmy Award Winning Journalist and WSOC-TV News Co-Ancor; Rodney Gaddy, Retired Executive Director, ONE Charlotte Health Alliance; David Jacobs, MD, Trauma & Acute Care Surgeon and Vice-Chair of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Atrium Health; and John Selden, DDS, founder and owner of Inspired Dentistry of Charlotte.

The concept to host an event honoring minority community and civic leaders was conceived by CWWCHC's Chief Executive Officer, Debra Weeks. "It is gratifying to see the wide range of support shown at our annual luncheon to promote health and wellbeing, while paying homage to trailblazers who define what it means to be a community champion, change agent, and servant leader," said Debra Weeks. "We are deeply grateful for their selfless, often difficult work that helps sustain the physical and psychological health of our society," continued Weeks.

This year's luncheon also featured keynote speaker Dr. Jewel Mullen, Associate Dean for Health Equity at the University of Texas Dell Medical School and Associate Professor in the school's Population Health and Internal Medicine Departments. Dr. Mullen's thought-provoking message encouraged audience members to continue to advocate for women's health equity.

"Unforeseen health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, underscore the critical importance of community health centers," said CWWCHC's board chair Edward Timberlake. "As incidences of chronic illnesses continue to rise, our services are needed now more than ever before. Events such as our annual luncheon help support our mission to provide access to high quality, comprehensive care for all, regardless of ability to pay. We are grateful to everyone who contributed to the event's success," Timberlake added.

For well over four decades, The C.W. Williams Community Health Center has been a pillar in the Charlotte community, providing comprehensive, often life-saving medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, and support services to thousands of patients annually. Each year at its annual luncheon fundraiser, CWWCHC brings together community members for an afternoon filled with networking opportunities, recognition of outstanding leaders, and inspirational words from notable guest speakers. Net proceeds from each event help to enhance access to quality healthcare programs primarily benefiting low-income, uninsured, and underinsured patients throughout Mecklenburg County and surrounding areas.

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Healing Heart, Mind & Soul!

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About The C. W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc.: *The C.W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc. (CWWCHC) is a Federally Qualified Community Health Center (FQHC), designated Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH), and 501(c)(3), non-profit organization founded by the late Dr. C.W. Williams and friends in 1981 to ensure that underserved patients receive high quality healthcare. CWWCHC provides primary and preventive medical & dental care, behavioral healthcare, comprehensive HIV/STI testing and specialty care, maternal & child health, women’s health services, pharmacy services, and community outreach programs for people of all ages. Each year, CWWCHC handles close to 30,000 patient encounters. Our mission is to improve spiritual, physical and psychosocial health by providing access to the highest quality comprehensive healthcare and ancillary services regardless of an individual’s ability to pay.*



(l to r) CWWCHC’s Chief Executive Officer Debra Weeks poses with Dannette Smith, Commissioner of the Colorado Behavioral Health Administration, Keynote Speaker Dr. Jewel Mullen, and Honoree Eria Bryant during CWWCHC’s 6th Annual Women’s Health & Doctor Recognition luncheon, held March 7, 2024 at the Hilton Uptown Charlotte.