



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 27, 2020

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Appointment of Public Health Director for the Pima County Health Department**

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Theresa Cullen to the position of Pima County Public Health Director, effective Monday, June 1, 2020.

Dr. Cullen has held a variety of administrative, clinical, teaching and research positions and has extensive experience in infectious diseases.

She was an active duty Public Health Service Officer, retiring with the Rank of Rear Admiral and Assistant Surgeon General, after 25 years of active duty.

During the 2014/15 Ebola crises she was a volunteer physician with Partners in Health in Sierra Leone where she helped establish, manage and staff a maternity Ebola Unit.

Dr. Cullen has a long distinguished medical and public health career beginning as a family practice physician for the Indian Health Service in San Carlos, AZ and subsequently at San Xavier and Sells, Arizona, where she eventually became the Clinical Director. She then became the senior informatics consultant for Indian Health Service for six years; during that time, she was also appointed for one year as the Acting Director for the National Office of Planning and Evaluation for the Indian Health Service in Washington. She was subsequently chosen to be the Chief Information Officer in the Office of Information Technology. After retirement from USPHS, Dr. Cullen became the Chief Medical Information Officer and Director of Health Informatics for the Veterans Health Administration, including a one year period as the Acting Deputy Director for the DoD/VA Integrated Electronic Health Record Initiative. In her most recent position, Dr. Cullen has been the Deputy Director for Global Health Informatics and an Associate Professor in Family Medicine at Regenstrief Institute/Indiana University. She is truly an outstanding community primary care and public health physician.

Dr. Cullen will begin as a part time employee of the County on May 4, 2020 and transition to full time May 18, 2020. She will assume the position of Director effective June 1. I have appointed her to be the Vice Chair of the Pima County Back to Business Task Force. Along with Dr. Francisco Garcia and Dr. Bob England, Dr. Cullen will provide core public health recommendations that will inform the guiding principles that will be used as the process of relaxation of present restrictions occurs when the Governor lifts the order.

The Honorable Chairman and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
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Dr. England assumed the position of Public Health Director during the interim search for a permanent replacement. Dr. England came to Pima County after a long, distinguished career as the Director of the Maricopa County Public Health Department. He has provided critical and timely leadership to our Health Department and has graciously agreed to stay with the County on a full-time basis to the end of June and then on a part-time basis to see us through this first phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. England's service to the residents of Pima County has been truly exemplary and many residents have come to know and rely on his public health advice. His Dr. Bob COVID-19 videos have become so popular, I am jokingly asking our Communications Department to submit them to the Cannes Film Festival under the documentary category related to useful real world advice on pandemics. Our community and Pima County administration owe a tremendous debt to this remarkable and self-less public health leader.

I ask you to welcome Dr. Cullen to the Pima County management team and to express our deep gratitude to Dr. England for his services to Pima County.

CHH/mp

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Dr. Bob England, Director, Health Department