

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HEALTH DEPARTMENT WELCOMES DR. AVRIL MELISSA HOUSTON
AS ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR MATERNAL AND CHILD
HEALTH**

BALTIMORE, MD (April 8, 2009) Interim Health Commissioner, Olivia D. Farrow, welcomes Dr. Avril Melissa Houston as the new Assistant Commissioner for Maternal and Child Health. Dr. Houston has served as the Medical Director of Youth and Families at the Baltimore City Health Department since 2008.

"As a Pediatrician, Dr. Houston brings a wealth of knowledge that will guide policies and impact strategies around maternal and child health issues within the Health Department and city of Baltimore," said Interim Commissioner Farrow. "We look forward to working with Dr. Houston as she leads this effort."

Dr. Houston is a board certified pediatrician and adolescent medicine specialist. She also has a Masters in Public Health from the George Washington University School of Public Health and is an Instructor in the Department of Department of Population, Family & Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Prior to joining the Health Department, Dr. Houston served as the Medical Director of the Adolescent and Young Adult Center at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. In previous appointments, she occupied the position of Staff Pediatrician for the Urgent Care Clinic in the Department of Emergency Medicine and Trauma at Children's National Medical Center, Washington, DC and was an Instructor in the Department of Pediatrics at the George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, DC

During her role as Medical Director, Dr. Houston was responsible for medical oversight of the school health program, the Division of Youth Violence Prevention, and the Division of Maternal and Child Health. In her new position, she will oversee the clinical and public health efforts, including reproductive health, immunization, and the home visiting programs, to improve the health of women, infants, and children.

"I am excited to be offered the opportunity to continue to serve the families and communities of Baltimore city," said Dr. Houston.

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