

August 21, 2015

## **DR. JOY JACKSON APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR FOR FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN POLK AND HARDEE COUNTIES**



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**Tallahassee, Fla.**—The Florida Department of Health has announced Joy Jackson, M.D., as the new director for the Florida Department of Health in Polk and Hardee Counties. Since 2012, Dr. Jackson has served as medical director for the Florida Department of Health in Polk County.

“Dr. Jackson’s medical background and proven commitment to public health makes her an excellent fit for the position of director,” said Kim Barnhill, deputy secretary for County Health Systems. “Her medical and leadership experience in the Florida Department of Health will ensure her success as she serves the department and people of Polk and Hardee Counties.”

In addition to serving as medical director for Polk County, Dr. Jackson has also served as medical director for Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine since 2012. She is board certified in internal medicine and has worked as Chief Medical Officer and Interim Vice President of Medical Affairs for Lakeland Regional Medical Center, where she provided leadership and oversight for the active medical staff.

After graduating summa cum laude from the University of South Carolina with a bachelor’s degree in biology, Dr. Jackson earned her doctor of medicine from the University Of South Carolina School Of Medicine. She then completed her residency at the University of Florida Shands Teaching Hospital.

Dr. Jackson currently serves as chair of the statewide Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, and she also works with several community organizations including Polk Vision and the Diabetes Advisory Committee at Lakeland Regional Health.

### **About the Florida Department of Health**

The department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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