



January 6, 2016

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Legacy Health has been working collaboratively with OHSU, Adventist, and Kaiser Permanente to create a new way for our community to deal with the challenges of mental illness. When the Unity Center for Behavioral Health opens at the end of this year we will be able to provide the care that some of our most vulnerable patients deserve.

Today I am pleased to announce that the Unity Center has hired one of its first leaders, and that leader comes from within the ranks of Legacy Health. Chris Farentinos, MD, MPH, CADC II, has accepted the role of Vice President for Unity Center. In that role, Dr. Farentinos will be responsible for providing overall leadership, direction and management of Unity Center. This includes establishing a strategic plan for the hospital, the Psychiatric Emergency Service, and developing partnerships with key community organizations serving those with behavioral health needs.

Since 2013, Dr. Farentinos has served as the Director of Behavioral Health Services for Legacy Health where she has been responsible for providing leadership and direction to Legacy's behavioral health services, including mental health and substance use disorder services. That role led her to the work she has been doing on behalf of Unity Center. As a part of her Unity work, Dr. Farentinos recruited numerous community members who have lived with experience of mental illness and recovery, as well as family members of patients, to participate and help shape Unity Center planning, design, implementation and future operation. Dr. Farentinos has also helped to conduct numerous community forums and meetings inviting peers and advocacy groups to exchange information, hopes and concerns about Unity Center.

Prior to joining Legacy, Dr. Farentinos was the Chief Operating Officer and Director of Adult Outpatient Services, De Paul Treatment Centers here in Portland. In addition to being a co-owner, she served as the Research and Clinical Director for ChangePoint in Portland and served as the Medical Director at DQ Centro, a chemical dependency and mental health clinic in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Dr. Farentinos started her career working in private practice as an adult and family clinical psychiatrist and psychotherapist.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Farentinos.

LJM

Lori J. Morgan, MD, MBA

VP and CAO Legacy Emanuel Medical Center