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**For Immediate Release:** 07.23.03

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### New State Health Director to Visit Oak Park

The new director of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) will visit the Oak Park Department of Public Health on Mon., July 28, as one stop in a series of visits to community health agencies across Illinois.

While in Oak Park, IDPH Director Eric Whitaker, MD, will participate in an open dialogue with Village staff and representatives of various community organizations who have been invited to discuss issues and needs with the state's highest ranking public health official.

Dr. Whitaker also will tour the Village's clinic at 320 Lake St., where the Health Department, Infant Welfare Society of Oak Park-River Forest and the Community and Economic Development Agency (CEDA) and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provide one-stop services for family health, dental and nutrition needs. In addition, he will visit the PCC Wellness Center at 12-14 Lake St., a full-service community health center.

"We are honored that Dr. Whitaker chose Oak Park as one of his stops," said Oak Park Health Director Georgeen Polyak, PhD. "Our public health programs are considered to be among some of the best in the state and we are delighted to show them off to the state's top health official."

Said Dr. Whitaker of the visits, "To better understand public health in Illinois, we have to get into the communities and listen to what people have to say. These visits are essential in establishing a dialogue with local public health care workers, health care providers and community leaders to determine their needs."

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Among the community's organizations invited to send representatives to meet with Dr. Whitaker are the Oak Park Board of Health, University of Illinois-Chicago School of Public Health, Oak Park Township Youth Services, Volunteer Center, Holley Court, Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association (OPALGA), CEDA, Park District of Oak Park, Early Childhood Consortium, Oak Park and River Forest High School Day Care Center, Rodent Control Coalition, Food Safety Coalition, Oak Park Hospital, West Suburban Hospital and Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS).

For more information on Dr. Whitaker's visits around the state, visit <http://www.idph.state.il.us/about/director/dirmap.htm>.

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