



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Amida Care Congratulates Dr. James McDonald On Appointment As Acting Commissioner of New York State Department of Health**

**New York, NY** (December 22, 2022) -- Amida Care, New York's largest Medicaid Special Needs Plan serving people impacted by HIV, released the following statement from President and CEO Doug Wirth, in response to Dr. James McDonald being named the Acting Commissioner of the New York State Department of Health by Governor Kathy Hochul:

"Amida Care congratulates Dr. James McDonald on his appointment as the Acting Commissioner for the New York State Department of Health. Governor Hochul has made a strong choice in Dr. McDonald, who has a long and distinguished track record as both a leading public health expert and a dedicated public servant.

"Dr. McDonald will step into leadership at NYSDOH at a crucial time for the future of public health. The COVID pandemic and the emergence of other public health crises, such as monkeypox, RSV, and the re-emergence of polio, have highlighted the urgent need to strengthen our public health infrastructure. Although much has been accomplished in our effort to end the epidemic, startling inequalities in health outcomes persist, and we have seen an increase in HIV infections for the first time in years. We must strive towards greater equity in our healthcare system and renew our effort to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in New York.

"Amida Care supports the Hochul Administration's and NYSDOH's efforts to undertake transformational changes in healthcare access and advance health equity in New York. We stand ready to work with Dr. McDonald to ensure the success of initiatives that protect and strengthen the safety net providers that are critical to public health."

**Amida Care Inc.** is a not-for-profit health plan that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to New Yorkers with complex conditions, including HIV and behavioral health disorders, and people who are of transgender experience or homeless (regardless of HIV status). Amida Care has a wide network of health care providers throughout New York City and is the largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) in New York State. For more information, visit [www.amidacareny.org](http://www.amidacareny.org).