



**For Immediate Release**

Media Contact: Shakira Croce, Assistant Director of Communications  
[scroce@amidacareny.org](mailto:scroce@amidacareny.org), (917)-565-4444

**Amida Care Celebrates Appointment of Tori Cooper to the  
Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS**

New York (August 24, 2021) – **Amida Care**, New York State’s largest not-for-profit Medicaid Special Needs Plan (SNP) designed for New Yorkers affected by HIV, has issued the following statement from President and CEO **Doug Wirth**, congratulating Tori Cooper on becoming the first Black trans woman to be appointed to the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS:

“Amida Care congratulates Tori Cooper on her appointment to the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. Ms. Cooper has dedicated her career to advocating for and empowering trans women, communities of color, and underserved Americans. She is an inspired choice to serve in this important position.”

“Ms. Cooper’s appointment – the first ever Black trans woman to serve on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS – is historic. If we are to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States, we need diversity and inclusion in leadership. As Amida Care detailed in our report ‘[Breaking Barriers to Transgender Health Care](#),’ people of transgender experience face extreme health and socio-economic disparities. This is especially true for transgender women of color, who are disproportionately impacted by the epidemic. A recent finding shows that transgender women are 49 times more likely to be living with HIV compared with the general population, and 62 percent of Black trans women are living with HIV according to the CDC.”

“Having a Black trans woman in a leadership position, making important policy recommendations, is a critical step forward to reach the goal of Ending the HIV Epidemic. It is also a signal from the Biden-Harris Administration that trans women of color are valued, their lived experience is an asset, and that advancing health equity is a priority. We wish Ms. Cooper much success in this position, and we are confident that she will continue to be a powerful voice for trans women and all Americans living with HIV.”

**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).