

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New Health Authority for Smith County
Tyler, Texas (March 22, 2023)

Dr. Valerie B. Smith has been officially appointed by the Smith County Commissioner’s Court and by the Tyler City Council to serve as the new Health Authority for Smith County.

With this appointment, Dr. Smith becomes the first female Health Authority for Smith County.

“Health Authorities are medical physicians who are appointed to administer state and local laws relating to public health within the appointing body’s jurisdiction,” says George Roberts, Chief Executive Officer of NET Health. The duties of an appointed Health Authority include:

- Disease prevention and suppression efforts
- Aiding local health boards or departments in quarantine inspections
- Establishing, maintaining, and enforcing jurisdictional quarantine orders
- Reporting the presence of contagious or infectious diseases to local and state authorities

Dr. Smith is an assistant professor of pediatrics with the School of Medicine at UT Tyler, and she previously practiced pediatrics for nearly 20 years at St. Paul’s Children’s Services in Tyler.

She also holds leadership positions with the Smith County Food Security Council, the Texas Pediatric Society, the Texas Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the East Texas Food Bank, and Texans Care for Children.

“Through her work with Fit City Tyler, Dr. Smith introduced the Fit City 5-2-1-0 program to TylerISD and WhitehouseISD by educating teachers, students and parents about habits that promote lifelong health,” continues Roberts. “She also led the “Be Our Voice” childhood obesity advocacy program that implemented evidence-based policies to improve children’s health.

About the Northeast Texas Public Health District (NET Health)

NET Health serves a vital function of promoting health, preventing illness, and protecting our communities through our Departments of Immunizations, Tuberculosis Control, Laboratory Services, Vital Statistics, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Disease Surveillance, Environmental Health, WIC (Women, Infants and Children) & Community Outreach.

The mission of NET Health is to promote health, prevent illness and protect our community.

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Dr. Valerie Smith recites the oath during the Smith County Commissioners Court meeting on Tuesday March 14th to serve as the new Health Authority for Smith County.



Pictured left to right are George Roberts (NET Health CEO), Kimberly Ashley (NET Health Board Chair), Pam Frederick (Smith County Commissioner Precinct 1), Dr. Valerie Smith (new Health Authority for Smith County), Neal Franklin (Smith County Judge), John Moore (Smith County Commissioner Precinct 2), and Jeff Levin (former Smith County Health Authority).

