



Green & Healthy Homes Initiative®

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DR. ETSEMAYE P. AGONAFER JOINS GREEN & HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE BOARD**

*Board-certified internal medicine physician committed to advancing innovative healthcare delivery models enhances GHHI's efforts to address social determinants of health through healthy housing*

**BALTIMORE, MD** – The Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) today announced the appointment of Etsemaye P. Agonafer, MD, MPH, MS to the organization's Board of Directors. Dr. Agonafer will help support the nonprofit's mission to address the social determinants of health and racial equity by ensuring every child, senior, and family has access to a healthy, safe, energy-efficient home.

"We are excited and grateful that Dr. Etsemaye Agonafer has agreed to join the GHHI board and to bring her passion for achieving health equity to our efforts across the country," said Board Chair Joy Thomas Moore. "Her experience as a practicing physician, a former White House Fellow, and National Clinician Scholar will be of enormous value to our Board as we continue to advance GHHI's mission to improve health, social, and economic outcomes for families burdened by decades of systemic inequities in housing, healthcare, and opportunity."

"I am humbled and honored to have the opportunity to serve as a member of the GHHI Board of Directors," noted Dr. Agonafer. "I am excited to bring my perspective to the table and work alongside my fellow board members to advance the GHHI mission in a meaningful way."

"It is a distinct honor to welcome Dr. Agonafer to our board," said GHHI President and CEO Ruth Ann Norton. "Her work and commitment to addressing the social determinants of health and improving outcomes for people living in historically disinvested communities are perfectly aligned with GHHI's mission. Dr. Agonafer will be an important voice for our Board and our organization, helping us demonstrate the tremendous health, economic, climate, and social benefits of creating innovative, scalable models for investing in healthy housing. She joins a stellar group of existing members representing philanthropy, public health, community development, research, and social justice."

**Etsemaye Agonafer**, MD, MPH, MS is an internal medicine physician and Assistant Professor in the Department of Health System Science at the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine in Pasadena, CA who continues to practice at Los Angeles County Twin Towers Correctional Facility. Her body of work amplifies the voices of vulnerable individuals and communities through narratives, mixed methods, and community-partnered participatory research to build cross-sector partnerships that impact healthcare delivery innovations

addressing social determinants of health. Prior to her current position, Dr. Agonafer was appointed as a 2021-22 White House Fellow placed in the Office of the Secretary at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. She also was a National Clinician Scholar at UCLA where she completed a Master of Science in Health Policy & Management. Throughout her career, she participated in numerous quality improvement efforts in diverse healthcare systems, trained and mentored students, developed novel medical education curricula, and disseminated her work in national presentations and peer-reviewed publications.

Dr. Agonafer completed her residency and chief residency at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center after graduating from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA/Charles Drew University, PRIME-LA dual-degree program. She earned a B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of Southern California.

**About the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative:** Founded in Baltimore, MD in 1986 as Parents Against Lead, the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative is one of the nation's most effective and influential healthy housing organizations. It serves the public through direct service programs, technical assistance, and advisory services across the United States. GHHI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. To learn more, please visit [www.ghhi.org](http://www.ghhi.org) and follow us at: [@HealthyHousing](https://twitter.com/HealthyHousing).

**Mission Statement:** The Green & Healthy Homes Initiative is dedicated to addressing the social determinants of health, opportunity, and equity through the creation of healthy, safe and energy efficient homes. By delivering a standard of excellence in its work, GHHI aims to eradicate the negative health impacts of unhealthy housing and unjust policies for children, seniors, and families to ensure better health, economic and social outcomes in historically disinvested communities – with an emphasis on communities of color.

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