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## **Tom Hughes Appointed Board President of INCCRRA, Expanding Leadership at the Intersection of Public Health and Early Childhood**

**SPRINGFIELD, IL** – The [Illinois Public Health Association](#) (IPHA) is proud to announce that Executive Director Tom Hughes has been appointed President of the Board of Directors for the [Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies](#) (INCCRRA), effective January 2026. INCCRRA is a statewide leader in expanding access to high-quality, affordable child care and supporting the early childhood workforce.

This appointment reflects a growing recognition that the health and well-being of Illinois communities is deeply connected to the strength of early childhood systems. As both organizations prioritize equity, access, and family-centered support, Hughes' leadership reinforces a shared commitment to innovation, quality, and collaboration across systems.

"At IPHA, we know that health starts long before someone walks into a clinic," said Tom Hughes, Executive Director of IPHA. "It starts with trusted caregivers, safe environments, and strong support systems. INCCRRA's work makes a real impact in the lives of families across Illinois, and I'm honored to help strengthen those efforts through this role."

Hughes has served as Executive Director of IPHA since 2013 and leads one of the largest affiliates of the American Public Health Association. His background includes senior roles at the Illinois Department of Public Health, where he oversaw statewide programs in infectious disease, environmental health, and emergency preparedness.

"Tom brings deep experience and a clear understanding of how interconnected our systems are," said Dan Harris, Executive Director of INCCRRA. "His leadership will help us strengthen partnerships, advance equity, and drive innovative solutions that support Illinois children, families, and early care and education professionals."

Learn more about how IPHA and INCCRRA are working together to create stronger systems for Illinois children, families, and communities at [www.ipha.com](http://www.ipha.com) and [www.inccrra.org](http://www.inccrra.org).

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### **About the Illinois Public Health Association**

Established in 1940, IPHA is Illinois' oldest and largest statewide voluntary organization dedicated exclusively to public health. An affiliate of the American Public Health Association, IPHA works to strengthen and support health across Illinois communities by mobilizing partners and advancing health equity.

### **About INCCRRA**

The Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) strengthens the early childhood system by supporting the child care workforce, increasing access to quality early care and education, and connecting families to resources that support children's healthy development and well-being.