

Carl Richie Jr. Appointed Chairman of Travis County Healthcare District

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Health board has new chairman

Starting today Carl Richie Jr., who has a history of public service and legal work, is the chairman of the Travis County Healthcare District board. Richie, a lawyer who had been vice chairman since the district's 2004 inception, succeeds Clarke Heidrick. Richie, 48, left the Gardere law firm in December to open his own firm. He serves on the board of Austin's Housing Authority and he is chairman of the government relations committee of the Greater Austin Chamber Of Commerce. Richie, who was deputy chief of staff to former Gov. Ann Richards, said that as a health district board member he has a special interest in mental health because of his mother. "She had a hard time keeping a job because of her erratic behavior." He said. "We actually lost our house and most of our possession and ended up in public housing."

The experience has made him passionate about public housing and proud of the health district's funding of psychiatric hospital beds, he said.

Christie Garbe, Communications Manager