



# WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### BOARD NAMES NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOLIET – The Will County Board of Health appointed John J. Cicero to be the new Will County Health Department Executive Director Wednesday, during a regularly scheduled monthly business meeting.

Cicero, 50, succeeds James E. Zelko as Executive Director June 2. Zelko retires May 30, after nearly 38 years of Will County public health service.

A native of Rockford, Cicero is no stranger to Health Department operations. A 28-year resident of Joliet, he joined the Will County public health laboratory staff in 1979, shortly after earning a bachelor's degree in microbiology, with a minor in chemistry from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. He worked in, and managed the Department's laboratory complex for more than a decade before transferring to the agency's Division of Administration. Since 1992, he has been the Health Department's Assistant Executive Director.

Married and the father of two, Cicero is a Fellow of the University of Illinois' Public Health Leadership Institute. He is also a member of the Illinois Public Health Association, the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium, and the Governors State University Health Care Administration Advisory Committee. He holds a master's degree in Health Care Administration from Governors State.

One of Illinois' most comprehensive public health agencies, the Health Department has been meeting Will County's unique public health challenges since 1947. The agency, headquartered at 501 Ella Avenue in southeast Joliet, employs more than 350 public health, medical and clerical professionals.

Zelko, a Joliet native, has served as Health Department Executive Director since August, 1991. A Northern Illinois University graduate, he previously directed Will County Environmental Health Services and simultaneously managed the Department's northern and eastern branch office facilities.

The Board of Health awarded special plaques of recognition to Zelko and retiring Will County Environmental Health Director Michael Vollmer Wednesday.

Vollmer also retires May 30, after 32 years of Will County public health service. He has been Will County Environmental Health Director since January, 1992. Elizabeth Bilotta will replace Vollmer as Environmental Health Director.