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Jon Cotton Named Corporate President of Meridian

DETROIT (August 14, 2017) – Meridian is proud to announce Jon B. Cotton as the corporate president of Meridian, effective September 4, 2017. Cotton will take the reins from his father and founder of Meridian, Dr. David B. Cotton. Dr. Cotton established Meridian in 1997, along with his wife Shery, and will remain CEO and chairman of the board.

In his new role, Cotton (Jon) will oversee all future business initiatives and each of Meridian’s locally-based market presidents. He will also oversee Meridian’s corporate departments, such as Quality Improvement, Finance, Business Development, and Marketing and Communications.

“It’s an honor to announce Jon as the corporate president,” said Dr. Cotton, CEO, Meridian. “We are confident that his 17 years of hard work and leadership have prepared him for this next step.”

Cotton has been with the Meridian Family since 2000 and was appointed as president and chief operating officer (COO) of the Michigan market in 2012. In this role, Cotton managed all Michigan operational matters and represented Meridian in all external relations. He provided direction and guidance to departments including Provider Network Development, Member Services, Claims, Medical Management, Quality Improvement, and Marketing and Communications. Ultimately accountable for Meridian’s compliance with the Medicaid program, Cotton led Meridian to achieve notable quality and operational performance metrics.

“It has been a privilege to lead our Michigan operations for the last five years,” said Cotton. “I have been supported by an incredible team of talented and dedicated individuals who are committed to improving the Medicaid program and the lives of all beneficiaries throughout the state.”

During the course of his tenure as president and COO, Cotton has been a driving force and advocate for a holistic Medicaid program promoting behavioral health benefit integration and better coordination of benefits across the care continuum. In 2016, when the residents of Flint, Michigan were faced with a devastating water crisis, Cotton’s leadership was pivotal in developing the Fueling Food for Flint initiative (a partnership with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan), which delivered 320,000 meals to roughly 400 families a day.

Cotton will be succeeded by Sean Kendall, Meridian’s senior vice president of business development, who joined the Meridian Family in 2008. According to Cotton, Kendall was an obvious choice to assume the role.

“I cannot think of a more qualified candidate for a successor,” said Jon Cotton. “Sean has a natural acumen for leadership and a unique passion for both our providers and members. I anticipate Sean to make significant contributions to the Michigan Medicaid program and lead our organization into the future.”

Kendall started his Meridian career as a Michigan based Network Development Specialist. He excelled in this position, which led him to become the Regional Manager of Provider Relations, eventually becoming the Director of Network Development. During his tenure in Network Development, Kendall's leadership and dedication supported Meridian's expansion throughout the State of Michigan as well as into new national markets. Kendall's success led him to be named Vice President of corporate Business Development in 2014. In his current role, Kendall is responsible for diversifying Meridian's product lines and expanding its regional and national footprints.

"I am proud of the Meridian name and the impact we have made in the state of Michigan -- growing from one of the smallest Medicaid health plans in the state to the largest," said Kendall. "I look forward to not only representing our organization's mission and values, but also the Medicaid health plan collective in an ever-changing industry."

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About Meridian

With 20 years of experience managing government sponsored health plans, Meridian is a family-owned, family-operated group of health plans headquartered in Detroit, Michigan with offices in Michigan and Illinois. Meridian's affiliates include MeridianHealth (Medicaid), MeridianCare (Medicare), MeridianChoice (Health Insurance Marketplace), and MeridianRx, a Pharmacy Benefit Management company. Meridian and its affiliates administer benefits for more than 2 Million beneficiaries throughout the United States. For more information, visit www.mhplan.com.