

Darnell Dent

President and Chief Executive Officer, FirstCare Health Plans

Advisory Board – National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) Texas TriCities Chapter, Board Leadership Fellow – NACD Texas TriCities Chapter, Board Secretary – Texas Association of Community-Based Health Plans (TACHP), Executive Committee Board – Texas Association of Health Plans (TAHP)

For over 35 years, Darnell Dent has proven his worth as a leader and experienced C-level executive with a wealth of knowledge and insight toward organizational and operational leadership. By embracing collaboration to further long-term success and profitability for any organization he has led, and by empowering and motivating his executive teams and employees to achieve high levels of performance, Darnell brings proven leadership, strategic thinking, effective communication, trust and credibility from the C-Suite to the Boardroom.

Darnell currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of FirstCare Health Plans, an Austin-based regional health plan serving the health care needs of North, West, and Central Texas since 1985. Since joining FirstCare in 2012, he has grown the health plan's membership and service area, while successfully leading the health plan to full NCQA accreditation in 2014. He is a member of the Advisory Board and a Board Leadership Fellow for the Texas TriCities Chapter of the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD). He serves as the Board Secretary for the Texas Association of Community-Based Health Plans (TACHP), and is an Executive Committee Board Member for the Texas Association of Health Plans (TAHP).

Prior to a successful career in the health insurance industry, Dent served in the United States Marine Corps as an officer attaining the rank of Captain. While serving his country he learned leadership and organizational discipline, skills that he still uses today. After the Marine Corps, Darnell began his executive leadership career in 1992 serving as President and CEO of Health Net Life Insurance, where he was appointed by the board of directors to lead the acquisition of four competing insurance companies into Health Net Life Insurance Company. From there, he went on to serve as a board member for a number of organizations, including the Association for Community Affiliated Plans (Board of Directors Chairman), Medicaid Health Plans of America (Board Director), Adaptis (Board Director)—contributing to each organization by utilizing his skills and training for strategic planning and forecasting for success.

Darnell holds a B.S. in Psychology from Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia, and an M.P.A. from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California. He has continued his education with professional development through the Taylor University Executive Development Program in Upland, Indiana, and the Center for Creative Leadership in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He has also received his Certificate of Director Education from the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) and is a Board Leadership Fellow confirming his dedication and effectiveness as a boardroom leader.

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