



CHRISTY L. VALENTINE THEARD, MD, MBA

I am deeply honored to serve as your chair in the year ahead. I live a life of service and I am very grateful for this opportunity to serve the state medical board community as it carries out its critical mission of public protection.

A proud Louisiana native, Dr. Christy Valentine Theard serves as the President and CEO of Anthem BCBS in New York. She earned her bachelor's degree from Xavier University of Louisiana, followed by a medical degree from Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans. She completed her residency in both Pediatrics and Internal Medicine at Tulane University.

Driven by a commitment to both clinical excellence and healthcare leadership, Dr. Valentine Theard earned an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, where she was awarded a Merit Scholarship. After Hurricane Katrina, she opened private primary care medical practices in the New Orleans metro area, serving as a vital healthcare provider in a time of recovery.

Dr. Valentine Theard has held a number of influential positions throughout her career. She served 15 years as a Commissioner for New Orleans East Hospital and eight years on the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (LSBME), where she also served as President. Additionally, she has served as Louisiana Statewide Medical Director for Reproductive Health and as a Medical Consultant for the Louisiana Bureau of Community Preparedness. Her leadership extends to professional associations as well. She is a Past President of both the New Orleans Medical Association and the Louisiana Managed Medical Association Board. In 2023, Dr. Valentine Theard was elected to the Board of Directors of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), and in April 2025, she was elected FSMB Chair-Elect. When she assumes the role of Chair in 2026, she will be the first Louisianian to do so in 46 years.

Dr. Valentine Theard's career is distinguished by her unwavering dedication to improving health outcomes and advancing equitable access to care. Her work exemplifies her strong leadership, deep commitment to public service, and passion for connecting individuals and families to high-quality healthcare.

As a physician and proud, lifelong Louisianian, my career has been exemplified by a deep commitment to public service and a passion for breaking down barriers so that every person, regardless of background or income, has access to high-quality healthcare.

In 2005, three months after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, I opened private primary care medical practices in the city, serving as a vital healthcare provider in a time of recovery. Ever since, I have been committed to serving the underserved and vulnerable populations. I served as a medical consultant for the Louisiana Office of Community Preparedness from 2015 to 2020. During that time, I collaborated with state leadership to strategically develop and lead Louisiana's response to the Zika virus.

For the last five years, I served as President and CEO of Healthy Blue in Louisiana, a leading managed care provider of health benefits for more than 268,000 of the state's Medicaid, Medicaid Expansion and LaCHIP programs. I believe my work has been a calling to be of service to some of the most vulnerable and medically fragile in the state. In January 2026, I transitioned to the position of President and CEO of Anthem BCBS in New York.

I sensed this same calling during my eight years of service on the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, where I served as President, Vice President and Treasurer. During this time I also became active with FSMB, attending annual meetings and serving on the Ethics and Professionalism and Oversight of Clinical Decision-Making workgroups, as well as in other roles.

I was elected to FSMB's Board of Directors in 2023 and, two years later, was elected Chair-elect. When I assume the role of Chair, I will be the first Louisianian to do so in 46 years. I look forward to this wonderful opportunity and am grateful for your support.

I believe that by fostering a collaborative environment within the medical board community and other colleagues in medicine, we can accomplish a great deal in the year to come. We live in a time of great challenges in healthcare and medical regulation. Working together, I know we can succeed in finding solutions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Theard', written in a fluid, cursive style.