



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FRESNO COUNTY APPOINTS SUSAN HOLT TO DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

FRESNO, CA – Today, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors appointed Susan L. Holt, LMFT as the new Behavioral Health Director and Public Guardian. She will assume the official position on April 18, 2022. Holt has been serving as the interim director since December 6, 2021.

Holt has served over 20 years in Behavioral Health and Public Guardian and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the position. Prior to her appointment as the interim director, she served as one of the two Deputy Directors for the Department for the past eight years. She gained licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist while serving early in her career with the County. Holt's clinical background includes providing mental health care services in a variety of settings including an inpatient psychiatric hospital serving all ages for mental health and substance use disorder acute needs, an adolescent residential treatment program, a foster family agency, elementary and high schools, community-based mobile crisis response, and outpatient treatment programs for adults and children. Holt's other past experience includes a part-time professorship at Fresno State.

Holt will lead an organization with over 700 employees and a system of care that in collaboration with community partners has over 70 programs. She stated, "It is truly an honor to be appointed as the next Director of Behavioral Health and Public Guardian. I am fortunate to work with a committed and passionate team of colleagues within our department and across our network of partner organizations. The department has made great strides in the last decade to expand our array of services while also strengthening our culture of wellness and recovery. We will continue that growth as the demand for services continues to rise. That requires us to remain focused on continuous quality

improvement and develop new solutions. We will stay committed to ensuring that the people we serve are at the heart of all that we do”.

“As the Interim Director, Susan has done an excellent job managing the department during this critical transition. Her expertise and passion for helping the Fresno County residents with their mental health wellness are among the many gifts she brings to bear as the new Director of Behavioral Health,” stated County Administrative Officer Paul Nerland.

The Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health is a government agency responsible to help County residents who may be facing mental health or substance use challenges get better and overcome those challenges. Specifically, the department provides direct services to the community in the form of programs, treatment, education, prevention, and information, while it also funds several community programs and services in Fresno County to assist those who may be uninsured or under-insured with accessing care to recover and become well.