



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Karen Larsen Appointed Mental Health Director

(Woodland, CA) – This month, the Yolo County Department of Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health welcomed Karen Larsen as the department’s new Mental Health Director and Alcohol & Drug Administrator. Prior to her position with Yolo County, she was the Director of Behavioral Health Services for CommuniCare Health Centers, responsible for the implementation and oversight of several specialized programs for individuals struggling with mental health and substance use disorders.

Ms. Larsen is a licensed marriage and family therapist with a master’s of science in counseling from California State University Sacramento. She has been providing services for mental health and substance use disorders for over 20 years. She has managed several substance abuse programs throughout the region and has worked in every modality of substance abuse treatment, including detoxification, residential and outpatient.

Ms. Larsen has taught several courses in human services at Woodland Community College. Additionally, she has created several specialized substance abuse and mental health treatment programs including adolescent treatment, perinatal substance abuse treatment, dual diagnosis programs, assertive community treatment programs and a variety of evidence-based mental health interventions for adults and adolescents.

Ms. Larsen has participated on several committees and advisory boards in her field, including the Alcohol and Drug Policy Institute, California Primary Care Association's Behavioral Health Task Force, Yolo County Youth Substance Abuse Committee, Yolo County Children's Alliance and Yolo County Drug Court/Proposition 36 Task Force.

“Yolo County will greatly benefit from Karen Larsen’s strong leadership skill and extensive experience in the field of mental health and substance abuse services,” said Yolo County Health Services Director Jill Cook. “We are happy to have her on the team.”

“I am honored to have been chosen for this position and excited to continue to serve the underserved members of our community struggling with mental health and substance use disorders,” said Karen Larsen, Yolo County Mental Health Director and Alcohol & Drug Administrator.

Karen Larsen assumed the Mental Health Director and Alcohol & Drug Administrator position on March 3. The annual salary range for this position is \$105,672 to \$128,436.

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