



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Yolo County Health & Human Services Agency Director Accepts New Role as CEO of the Steinberg Institute

(Woodland, CA) – Yolo County Health & Human Services Agency (HHS) Director Karen Larsen has officially accepted a new role as the first-ever CEO of the Steinberg Institute. The Steinberg Institute was created to upend the status quo and dramatically raise the profile and increase the effectiveness of mental health policymaking in California. The Steinberg Institute Board of Directors approved Larsen's appointment on February 1, 2022, and she will begin the new role on March 1.

Karen Larsen has served as the HHS Director for the last six years. Since joining HHS, her mission has focused on expanded access and services for those in need. HHS instituted Results Based Accountability to track their outcomes, optimizing metrics for services. During her tenure, HHS's notable achievements have included: Permanent Supportive Housing units increasing by 300% with a 100% increase planned in the next year, Family Homelessness at zero for the past four years, achieving Public Health Accreditation, improving permanency timelines in Child Welfare, and recognition as an integrated agency by the State of California allowing for increased financial flexibilities.

"Karen Larsen's dedication, leadership, and service to Yolo County – including two years of facing the challenges of a pandemic – leaves a lasting legacy of work towards the integration of health, social services, and behavioral health services in the County," said Yolo County Board Chair, Supervisor Angel Barajas. "She has successfully helped to bridge barriers across departments and larger systems to improve access and outcomes, in particular for Yolo County's most vulnerable residents."

The Steinberg Institute is dedicated to advancing sound public policy and inspiring leadership on issues of brain health. Founded by Sacramento Mayor and former state Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, the institute is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing sound public policy and inspiring leadership on issues of brain health. Since its inception in January 2015, the Institute has helped enact sweeping improvements in California's mental health policy. They envision a system of care in which brain illness is addressed with the same urgency and sweep as physical illness.

"Karen has a track record of innovation and improving outcomes for California's most vulnerable," said Steinberg Institute founder Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. "I'm thrilled she is bringing her bold ideas and leadership to the institute at such a critical time for the state's mental health system."

"It has been my absolute honor and privilege to serve the community in Yolo County for the past 23 years. I am incredibly proud of all we have accomplished since I joined the Yolo team," said Larsen. "This new position feels like the culmination of my life's work. I'm looking forward to my work at the Steinberg Institute at this critical time in our State and Nation."

For additional information on Yolo County visit the County webpage at www.yolocounty.org or follow Yolo County on Facebook at www.facebook.com/YoloCounty and Twitter at <https://twitter.com/YoloCountyCA>. Follow the mission and work of the Steinberg Institute at <https://steinberginstitute.org/>.

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