

March 13, 2020

## ***Director Garcia Announces Leadership Team Appointments***

(Des Moines, Iowa) – The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) Director Kelly Garcia announced the appointment of two key leadership positions today.

“While they each have their unique strengths, I can say both of them are passionate, qualified and eager to bring about positive change,” said Director Kelly Garcia. “Recognizing the achievements of current employees through advancement opportunities is a wonderful way to reward talent and hard work. I am proud of the team we’re building and excited about the direction we’re heading. We’re working to improve the gaps in our system, focusing on the cross connections of programs within our agency, and exploring ways to measure outcomes to show our progress. These two leaders are going to be vital in that effort. I would also like to thank our stakeholders who recommended our final candidates and played an important role in the process.”

Leadership positions announced by Director Garcia:

- Marissa Eyanson, Division Administrator (DA) for community services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health (IDD/MH).
- Janee Harvey, DA for Adult, Children and Family Services (ACFS).

Eyanson graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology. She’s a lifelong, small-town Iowan. Her first professional job was as a direct support worker serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She’s dedicated her career to work in the mental health and disability services space in Iowa. The individuals she’s worked with have left a lasting impression. “I carry each story, with gratitude, in my heart. I believe in the power of hope and possibilities and I look toward the future with excitement,” said Eyanson. She is currently the bureau chief of Iowa Medicaid policy where she oversees subject matter experts responsible for program management and policy development across the spectrum of Iowa’s \$6.5B Medicaid program including Iowa’s seven 1915(c) home- and community-based services (HCBS) waivers.

“Marissa brings a unique perspective to the community mental health position, and will provide a much needed connection point between community mental health, IDD and Medicaid,” said Garcia. “Her skill set and relationships will be a huge asset as we continue to expand mental health services in the State of Iowa, focus on community integration for individuals with IDD and make intentional efforts around those with co-occurring conditions.”

Jane C. Harvey worked as a social worker in New York, NY, for more than a decade before transplanting to Des Moines, IA, in 2015 with her wife and two kids. She is a graduate of Hunter College with a Master of Social Work (MSW) and is credentialed as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW). She has worked with runaway and homeless teens, LGBTQ youth, and families, children and youth involved with the child welfare

system for the past 20 years. Most recently, she has served for the last four years as the Child Welfare and Community Services Bureau Chief for DHS.

“Janee’s energy and deep love of policy is remarkable and is exactly what we need as we move to implement Family First federal legislation,” said Garcia. “She’s the right person at this important time as we focus on strengthening families through evidence-based practices and services designed to keep families together. She will also work to highlight the importance of child protective services.”

The Department will be re-posting the DA position responsible for overseeing DHS facilities, and will be posting to fill the positions previously held by Eyanson and Harvey.

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