



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Rachel McCoy

Public Relations and Outreach Specialist

Phone: 231-903-2952

Email: mccoy@ceicmh.org

GWENDA SUMMERS NAMED NEXT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY OF CLINTON, EATON, AND INGHAM COUNTIES

Lansing, MI - Gwenda Summers will be the next Chief Executive Officer of the Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties (CMHA-CEI), following a comprehensive executive search.

Summers, who currently serves as director of Families Forward at CMHA-CEI, officially begins her role as CEO on October 9, following the retirement of the organization's current Chief Executive Officer, Sara Lurie. To ensure a seamless leadership transition, Summers and Lurie will work closely together beginning August 1.

"After a comprehensive search, we are thrilled to announce Gwenda Summers as CMHA-CEI's next Chief Executive Officer," said Lurie. "Her extensive experience, collaborative leadership style, and unwavering commitment to serving individuals and families make her exceptionally well qualified to lead our organization into the future."

Summers brings more than 29 years of leadership and service to the role. Her distinguished career in Michigan's public behavioral health system began as a case manager at Gratiot Community Mental Health before joining CMHA-CEI as a home-based therapist within Families Forward.

Throughout her tenure, Summers held numerous leadership positions of increasing responsibility, including Training & Technical Assistance Coordinator for the Children's Impact System of Care, Regional Coordinator and Lead State Trainer for Parent Management Training–Oregon (PMTO), Children's Crisis Services & Access Coordinator, and, since 2016, Director of Families Forward.

Over the course of her career, Summers has successfully led large service divisions, managed complex budgets, and advanced system transformation through strong partnerships with state agencies, governing bodies, community organizations, and key stakeholders. She has played an integral role in organizational strategic planning, implementation, and evaluation while consistently advancing CMHA-CEI's mission and vision.



Summers is recognized statewide and nationally for her leadership in youth crisis system redesign, implementation of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) models, and contributions to behavioral health policy development. She has earned a reputation for balancing clinical excellence with operational effectiveness while prioritizing workforce development, leadership coaching, and meaningful community collaboration.

"It is a true privilege to be selected as the next CEO of CMHA-CEI," said Summers. "Our mission is deeply meaningful to me, and I am committed to working tirelessly to support our staff and agency in achieving it. I look forward to empowering our talented workforce as they continue providing effective, creative, and sustainable services to the individuals and families we serve, strengthening partnerships that benefit our communities, and advocating for Michigan's public behavioral health system. I am honored to serve in this role and excited about what we can accomplish together. Together we can."

The transition also marks the culmination of Lurie's distinguished leadership at CMHA-CEI as she prepares to retire on October 9.

As CEO, Summers will lead CMHA-CEI in its continued commitment to providing high-quality, person-centered behavioral health services while advancing innovation, strengthening partnerships, and improving outcomes for individuals, families, and communities across Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties.

"I am confident Gwenda's experience, vision, and dedication to CMHA-CEI's mission will serve our organization, employees, and the communities we serve exceptionally well in the years ahead," Lurie said. "Please join me in congratulating Gwenda on this well-deserved appointment and supporting her as she prepares to assume this important leadership role."

To learn more about CMHA-CEI's services, visit www.ceicmh.org.

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About Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties (CMHA-CEI):

The Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties (CMHA-CEI) provides, directly and through partnerships, a comprehensive set of person-centered, high-quality, and effective behavioral health, substance use disorder, and developmental disability services to the residents of this community.