

ALAMEDA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE SERVICES
AGENCY

Rebecca Gebhart, Interim Director



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TO Behavioral Health Care Services Providers and Stakeholders
FROM Rebecca Gebhart, Interim Agency Director *Rebecca Gebhart*
DATE October 4, 2017
SUBJECT Behavioral Health Care Services Interim Director Announcement

A few weeks ago we learned that Don Kingdon, Principal of Behavioral Health Integration at Harbage Consulting in Sacramento, can no longer continue in his current role as Interim Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) Director. Prior to contracting with Alameda County for Interim Behavioral Health Director, Harbage Consulting had existing contracts to provide support and technical assistance to the California Department of Health Care Services related to mental health and drug and alcohol services delivered by the counties. Harbage Consulting informed DHCS leadership of this BHCS contract with Alameda County and after repeated attempts to resolve DHCS concerns regarding a potential conflict of interest, it was determined that Harbage would need to terminate the contract with Alameda County for Interim Behavioral Director. We want to thank Don for stepping in at such a critical time and for the leadership he provided to the department.

I am pleased to announce that Ms. Carol F. Burton has been selected to serve as BHCS Interim Director, effective October 1st. In 2015, Ms. Burton joined BHCS as a consultant providing technical assistance through the California Institute of Behavioral Health Services (CIBHS). Since that time, Ms. Burton has worked across several BHCS programmatic areas including the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System, the Drug/Family Courts, and with Criminal Justice Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health services. Most recently, her company provided support for the successful launch of the Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) project that addresses the priority of decreasing incarceration of people with mental illness. Ms. Burton is no stranger to community and faith-based organizations and our larger network of providers. She is a highly regarded and much respected leader. Ms. Burton received a Master's in Social Work from Grand Valley State University-Allendale, Michigan in 1984 and she teaches in the School of Social Work at California State University, East Bay.

As Interim BHCS Director, Ms. Burton will provide executive leadership and stability to the Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) to meet the obligations of a county mental health plan. She will provide consultation, support, and supervision to the BHCS Deputy Director and the BHCS Medical Director and members of the executive leadership team, and engage with stakeholders and providers. Further, she will provide direction, guidance and support to major HCSA and BHCS initiatives to assure effective and timely implementation, including providing support and oversight to project leads on the BHCS initiatives such as Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS), the Full Service Partnership (FSP) Redesign, the Crisis System Redesign, and implementation of the Sequential Intercept Mapping work.

Dr. Don Kingdon will continue to work with Ms. Burton, Deputy Director James Wagner and BHCS leadership to ensure an effective leadership transition and adequate support on technical mental health plan requirements.