

I'm very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Melissa Vallas to Deputy Medical Director of Alameda County Behavioral Health (ACBH). Dr. Vallas' background experience adds valued depth to the Child and Young Adult Executive Leadership team, supporting our efforts to improve access to services and quality of care for the children and young adults across Alameda County.

Dr. Vallas has served as the Lead Psychiatrist for the Alameda County Child and Young Adult System of Care since 2013. In this role, she acted as the liaison between the Office of the Medical Director and the medical (prescribing) staff. In addition, she has provided medical leadership in program development and strategic planning. With her talented leadership, ACBH expanded its county clinic services and employed a model of behavioral health care coordination that brought licensed clinical social workers and public health nursing together with medical providers to deliver necessary psychiatric services, care coordination and appropriate discharge planning.

Over the past 18 months, Dr. Vallas has concurrently served as the Crisis System Liaison for Alameda County Care Connect, the whole person care initiative of Alameda County Health Care Services Agency. She was instrumental in the redesign of crisis services focused on the target population of the homeless, seriously mentally ill, and frequent users of multiple systems across the county. Her unique perspective as a psychiatrist brought advocacy and new program design for these populations, including field treatment of psychiatric distress and telephone follow-up after a behavioral health crisis.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Vallas and offering her best wishes in her new leadership role.

