Marsha Deslauriers to Step Down as Executive Director of CHAC

– Deslauriers to Retire from Role at End of December 2022 –

Mountain View, CA, September 13, 2022 – Marsha Deslauriers, Executive Director (ED) for the Community Health Awareness Council (CHAC), has announced that she will retire as head of the 49-year-old organization after successfully leading the organization for six years. She will remain ED for the remainder of 2022 and support CHAC’s Board of Directors as it conducts a search for her successor.

“The field of mental health has experienced tremendous change as our community grapples with a dramatic increase in mental health needs. Leading the agency has been gratifying for me as I had the privilege of working side-by-side with deeply committed community leaders, health professionals, and our dedicated staff rising to the task,” said Deslauriers. “While challenges at times during the pandemic seemed nearly insurmountable, I’m proud of our team for using the opportunity to integrate new virtual formats into our services, allowing us to further break down barriers and improve access for those we serve,” she added.

Under Deslauriers’ leadership, CHAC expanded its impact in the community while continuing to deliver critical mental health services and programs. She also oversaw the completion of a five-year strategic plan positioning CHAC as a professional, pro-active, agile, and responsive agency to meet growing needs. Other key accomplishments include:

- Nearly doubling its revenues and strengthening its financial condition;
- Implementation of an electronic health records system and other technological advances;
- Expanding school-based counseling and prevention services;
- Upgrading facilities and completing a much-needed remodel of the clinic; and,
- Achieving a ten-year accreditation from the American Psychological Association (for CHAC’s doctoral internship program).

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“Marsha has consistently brought her significant talents and skills to her role and has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the organization,” said Kevin Duggan, Chair, CHAC Board of Directors. “She has worked tirelessly to move the organization forward during a period of significant changes in mental health services. In conjunction with CHAC’s staff, her efforts allowed CHAC to successfully meet the unprecedented challenges associated with the pandemic,” he added.

Through the transition, CHAC remains committed to its mission to improve lives and strengthen communities through access to comprehensive and culturally responsive mental health services in northern Santa Clara County. CHAC’s Board of Directors is leading a thorough search process to identify the next ED and achieve a smooth and successful transition.

“We are very grateful to Marsha for her willingness to defer her planned retirement until CHAC was able to emerge from the most challenging period of the pandemic. CHAC is well prepared for this change as it looks towards its next 50 years of service to the community,” said Duggan.

For inquiries about CHAC’s Executive Director position, please contact CHAC’s Board Chair, Kevin Duggan, at kcduggan@katesbridge.com or 650-888-5850. For additional information about CHAC, please visit www.chacmv.org.

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ABOUT CHAC
CHAC provides mental health services to children, couples, families, and other individuals in Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and surrounding communities. For almost 50 years, CHAC’s partnership between these cities and the school districts within these communities has provided an array of counseling services in schools and community settings. With a current staff of 57 (plus an additional 76 interns) and an operating budget of approximately $5 million, CHAC is anchored by a highly engaged Board of Directors (including council members and school board members of the participating organizations) and talented, dedicated staff. Through the generosity of local cities, school districts, foundations, and many generous individual donors, CHAC can continue its critical role in serving our local community. To learn more about CHAC visit www.chacmv.org.