

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | Dec. 10, 2019

Human Services names Stolt Chief Operating Officer

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services has selected Sara Stolt as its Chief Operating Officer (COO). As COO, Stolt will be part of the department’s executive and senior leadership teams and will be responsible for overseeing the social service redesign process authorized in 2019 Senate Bill 2124. This includes program and process review of all DHS programs to assure that operations are carried out in a consistent, effective and efficient manner following legislative intent.

Commenting on her selection, department Executive Director Chris Jones said, “Sara brings a strong background in nonprofit and business project management, process improvement, organizational development and other skills. She will be responsible for managing a portfolio of strategic, cross-functional and organization-wide projects, and will help us translate strategy into actionable goals.”

Jones said her priority will be to fill the new zone operations director position, which will report to her and will work directly with the 19 human service zones.

Stolt founded The Project Company and has spent nearly 20 years working on internal operations for nonprofits and businesses including the Dakota Medical Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota, YWCA Cass Clay, and United Way.

Stolt joined the department in February 2019 as transformation manager. She worked primarily with DHS colleagues, the North Dakota Association of Counties and county social service leaders to support the transition from a county to a human service zone administrative structure and to develop pilot programs redesigning child welfare processes, child care licensing, and other service areas to achieve efficiencies and better outcomes for clients.

The COO position and zone operations director positions are not new full-time equivalents (FTE), but are transfers from county authorized FTEs to state authorized FTEs.

Stolt earned her bachelor’s degree in speech and mass communications from North Dakota State University and a master’s degree in strategic leadership from the University of Mary in Bismarck.

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