

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 13, 2019

Media contacts: Heather Steffl at 701-328-4933 or LuWanna Lawrence at 701-328-1892

Baumgarn hired to lead Lake Region Human Service Center in Devils Lake

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services has promoted licensed professional clinical counselor Julie Baumgarn to regional director of Lake Region Human Service Center (LRHSC), which provides behavioral health and other human services to residents of the Devils Lake region.

Baumgarn joined LRHSC in 1999 as a human relations counselor and has worked in a variety of roles including advanced clinical specialist, supervisor of the clinical services unit, and office lead and counselor at the center's outreach office in Rolla. Prior to accepting her new role, Baumgarn was providing direct therapy services, integrated behavioral health assessments and emergency services to individuals, along with leading the center's quality management and accreditation efforts.

During her 20-year career in public behavioral health treatment at LRHSC, Baumgarn has supervised the Partnership Program, which provides service coordination to children with serious emotional disturbance and provided outreach to Four Winds School, Langdon, Leeds and Cando. In addition, she served on a local Lake Region Reentry Team providing therapy and working with agency partners assisting people transitioning from prison to the community. She also worked as the emergency services coordinator and provided training to other professionals on crisis intervention, suicide prevention and person-centered treatment planning.

Baumgarn intends to gradually assume her new administrative duties and may retain a small client caseload. Regional director Randy Slavens will continue to lead Northeast Human Service Center in Grand Forks and will mentor Baumgarn as administrative responsibilities transfer to local management at LRHSC.

Tom Eide, the department's director of Field Services, said "The department strives to develop and recognize the talent within our organization. Julie's vast experience in direct client services and her familiarity with the communities and service providers in the region are an asset as we work with partners to more effectively address local behavioral health needs – especially crisis and early intervention needs."

Eide said client care will remain an important consideration during the leadership transition at LRHSC.

The eight regional human service centers were each managed by an on-site regional director until 2002, when the department implemented a shared management model for greater consistency in services and administrative practices.

"In today's fast changing environment, having on-site leadership is an important asset. Additionally, it is more important than ever that our centers are integrated with their communities. Having a local resource available on a consistent basis is critical," Eide said.

-MORE-

Baumgarn promoted to lead Lake Region Human Service Center – page 2

Baumgarn earned a master's degree in counseling and a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in chemical use and abuse awareness from the University of North Dakota.

LRHSC employs about 64 people. Staff members provide community-based behavioral health services focusing on chronic disease management and emergency services, including walk-in behavioral health assessments (no appointment needed) from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, and 8 to 11:30 a.m. on Fridays. Behavioral health staff also provide community outreach and short-term crisis residential services.

Other staff provide case management services for people with developmental disabilities, services for older adults, vocational rehabilitation services and oversight of child welfare services provided by the counties. LRHSC serves residents of Benson, Cavalier, Eddy, Ramsey, Rolette and Towner counties.

In addition to its Devils Lake office, LRHSC provides services at its Rolla outreach office and through outreach to clients in the region. Between November 2017 and October 2018, LRHSC provided behavioral health services to an average of 626 registered clients per month. The center served other individuals who did not become registered clients and did not receive ongoing services and support. In 2018, LRHSC developmental disabilities program managers served 259 individuals age 3 and older.

#