



NEWS RELEASE

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Highland Rivers Health governing board elects officers for 2017 fiscal year

Judge Allen Wigington and Chantel Adams to continue as chair and vice chair of the 14-member board

DALTON, Georgia – July 11, 2016 – The Honorable Allen Wigington, chief judge of the Magistrate Court of Pickens County, was elected chair of the Highland Rivers Health governing board for a second year, at the board’s regular meeting in June. His new one-year term as chair began July 1, the start of the agency’s 2017 fiscal year.

Other officers elected for FY17 include Cherokee County board member Chantel Adams, founder and CEO of Forever We, Inc., as vice chair, also for a second year; Gordon County board member Cindy Cochran, director and family advocate at the Family Resource Center of Gordon County, as secretary; and Polk County board member Jonathan Blackmon, chief deputy of the Polk County Sheriff’s Office, as treasurer.

“Highland Rivers Health is very fortunate to board members who not only provide outstanding governance and fiscal oversight but are also ambassadors of our agency in the communities they represent,” said Highland Rivers CEO Melanie Dallas. “Having such high-caliber individuals as Judge Wigington and Ms. Adams reelected to the top positions on our board speaks highly of their dedication to our mission and the individuals we serve, and our agency as a whole.”

Highland Rivers’ governing board includes a representative from every county in the agency’s 12-county service area (with two representatives from both Floyd and Polk counties) who are appointed by each county’s board of commissioners. The board has four officers (chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer) who are selected by board members, and two standing committees: corporate compliance and finance. Members serve three-year terms and terms are staggered to ensure continuity of governance.

The board includes several individuals who have family members with mental illness, addictive disease or developmental disabilities, and includes representatives from the judicial system, family services, private industry, law enforcement, local government and healthcare, among others. Highland Rivers’ board meets every other month – six times each year – in locations

across the agency's service area. All board meetings are open to the public and are announced in advance.

FY17 Highland Rivers Health governing board meeting schedule:

- August 24, 2016; Home Again program facility, 419 N. Wall St., Calhoun
- October 26, 2016; Bartow Recovery Center, 650 Joe Frank Harris Pkwy., Cartersville
- December 14, 2016; ROC Clubhouse, 1 Goodyear Ave., Cartersville
- February 22, 2017; Adolescent Clubhouse (new address to be announced), Rome
- April 26, 2017; Kaleidoscope Whitfield facility, 2615 Cleveland Hwy., Dalton
- June 28, 2017; Cherokee Recovery Center, 191 Lamar Haley Pkwy., Canton

About Highland Rivers Health

Highland Rivers Health provides comprehensive treatment and support services for adults, children, families and veterans affected by mental health disorders, intellectual developmental disabilities and addictive disease. One of the state's largest public safety net providers, Highland Rivers operates more than two-dozen treatment facilities across a 4,400-square mile area of Northwest Georgia that includes Bartow, Cherokee, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk and Whitfield counties, and serves nearly 16,000 consumers annually. Highland Rivers is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) and is a Tier 1 safety net Core Provider for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. For more information, visit www.highlandrivershealth.com.

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