



NEWS RELEASE

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Whitfield Magistrate Judge Shana Vinyard joins Highland Rivers Health governing board

DALTON, Georgia – March 6, 2018 – Whitfield County Magistrate Judge Shana Vinyard was seated as a member of the Highland Rivers Health governing board at its most recent meeting in February. She will serve a three-year term as Whitfield County representative on the board.

“The courts have played a pivotal role in criminal justice reform in Georgia, and their partnership with local mental health and substance use treatment providers such as Highland Rivers is critical to the ongoing success of these initiatives,” said Chantel Adams, chair of Highland Rivers’ governing board. “Judge Vinyard has firsthand experience with the challenges and solutions to these issues in northwest Georgia, and we are very pleased to have her join our governing board.”

Highland Rivers Health is governed by a 14-member board that includes a representative from every county in the agency’s service area (with two representatives from both Floyd and Polk counties) who are appointed by each county’s board of commissioners. 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, and healthcare, among others.

“The strength of Highland Rivers’ governing board is not only in the diverse experience and perspectives that individual board members bring to our work, but also their close connections to the local communities we serve,” said Highland Rivers CEO Melanie Dallas. “Judge Vinyard is an excellent addition to our governing board and we thank the commissioners of Whitfield County for appointing her.”

For more information about the Highland Rivers Health governing board, including a list of members, meeting schedule and meeting minutes, visit the Highland Rivers website board page at: <http://highlandrivershealth.com/governing-board/>.

About Highland Rivers Health

Highland Rivers Health provides comprehensive treatment and support services for adults, children and 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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