



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Highland Rivers Health names Erica Collins Director of Human Resources**

*Hire completes agency's new executive team*

DALTON, Georgia – December 10, 2015 – Highland Rivers Health today announced it has named Erica Collins, MBA, as director of human resources. In this role, Collins will be an advocate for the agency's 600+ employees and oversee all human resources functions, including talent acquisition, contract staffing, onboarding, training, employer relations and more.

“As one of the largest providers of mental health and substance abuse treatment services in Georgia, Highland Rivers considers the credentials and qualifications of its clinicians and all staff very carefully,” said Melanie Dallas, CEO. “Erica shares our commitment to ensuring excellence in all aspects of our operations by recruiting and building the most qualified and competent workforce possible, and we are very happy to have her join our team.”

Collins has nearly two decades of experience in human resource management, both as an independent consultant and working for large, geographically diverse healthcare organizations. Before joining Highland Rivers, she worked as a talent acquisition consultant for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee in Chattanooga, and as division director of human resources for Life Care Centers of America, a national chain of skilled care facilities focusing on long-term care and short-term rehabilitation, in Cleveland, Tennessee. She earned a BS in business administration and human resource management from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and an MBA from the University of Phoenix.

Collins is the final member of Highland Rivers' new executive team that Dallas has worked to put in place since being named CEO in April. In addition to Collins, the team includes Chief Medical Officer Nizamuddin Khaja, MD; Clinical Director Kelly Trusheim, PsyD; Chief Administrative Officer Rich Gonzalez; Chief Compliance Officer Stephanie Collum; and Community Relations Director Mike Mullet.

**About Highland Rivers Health**

Headquartered in Dalton, Georgia, Highland Rivers Health has provided comprehensive treatment and support services for adults, children and families affected by mental health disorders, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and addictive diseases since 1973. One of the state's largest public safety net providers, Highland Rivers operates 28 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 Core Provider for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. For more information, visit [www.highlandrivershealth.com](http://www.highlandrivershealth.com).

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