



NEWS RELEASE

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Highland Rivers names Debbie Strotz Director of Operations and Recovery Services

A widely respected expert on behavioral health, Strotz says recovery is always possible

DALTON, Georgia – June 7, 2016 – Highland Rivers Health today announced the hire of Debbie Strotz, MPA, CARES, as director of operations and recovery services. In this newly created position, Strotz will oversee the agency’s mental health, addictive disease and crisis treatment services, while emphasizing a person-centered recovery orientation across all agency services.

“Debbie Strotz is not only an expert in behavioral health, but has a very keen and personal understanding of how high-quality treatment can enhance an individual’s path to recovery – which is our goal for everyone who receives our services,” said Melanie Dallas, CEO of Highland Rivers Health. “With more than 30 years of professional experience, Debbie is also an outstanding manager and we are thrilled to have her join the Highland Rivers team.”

Strotz is well-known in Georgia among behavioral health providers at both the local and state level for her work in recovery transformation, integration of behavioral healthcare and primary care, and community-based services. She was a pioneer in assertive community treatment (ACT) in the state, and was a member of one of Georgia’s first ACT teams. In addition, Strotz was co-leader of a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) integration project webinar on peer workforce integration, and was a member of the Morehouse School of Medicine Satcher Health Leadership Institute Community of Practice for integrated healthcare.

“My message to anyone and everyone is that recovery is always possible, for any individual,” said Strotz, who openly identifies as an individual in long-term recovery. “With hope, choice and opportunity, individuals can live independent, fulfilling lives in recovery-oriented communities. That’s what we are working toward.”

Before joining Highland Rivers Health, Strotz worked as director of rehabilitation and recovery services at Cobb/Douglas Community Service Board in Smyrna. She has a Master of Public Administration in community service/non-profit management from Kennesaw State University, and is a Georgia Certified Addiction Recovery Empowerment Specialist (CARES).

About Highland Rivers Health

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