



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Dr. Kiara Kuenzler, New CEO at Jefferson Center**

July 19, 2018, Wheat Ridge, CO— The Board of Directors of Jefferson Center is pleased to announce the hiring of Kiara Kuenzler, Psy.D., as new Chief Executive Officer. Dr. Kuenzler joined Jefferson Center in October 2017, to work alongside Harriet L. Hall, Ph.D., who officially stepped down as CEO after 37 years of service.

“I am excited to work with community partners, staff and the people we serve, to develop and support innovative models and programs that open new doors to achieving the overall health of our community. Every person has a voice and a story that deserves to be heard and every person should be able to access and participate in the care that will improve their lives,” said Dr. Kuenzler.

Dr. Kuenzler comes to Jefferson Center with more than 13 years of behavioral health experience. In her most recent role as chief operating officer of Foothills Behavioral Health Partners, Dr. Kuenzler has successfully engaged community partners to ensure that Medicaid members have access to timely and high quality behavioral health care. She has pushed the needle on whole person, whole health integration by seeking innovative solutions to meet the growing needs of the population served, effectively managing costs, and driving clinical excellence.

Dr. Kuenzler is a licensed Psychologist and received her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Denver, followed by a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Colorado Medical School in Administration and Evaluation Psychology. In addition to her 9 years of experience in health care administration, quality, and program evaluation, Kiara has over 12 years of direct clinical experience, and served as adjunct faculty in the Psychology Department at the University of Colorado, Denver.

Dr. Kuenzler was hired as the deputy CEO by the Center’s Board in March, and officially assumed the role of CEO on July 19, 2018. “I’ve had the opportunity to watch Kiara grow as a leader in the healthcare arena and am convinced there is no better leader for Jefferson Center today,” said Larry Renoe, Jefferson Center Board Chair.

“I am honored to have been selected to lead Jefferson Center and thrilled to be joining such a dedicated, passionate and innovative team. As we navigate potential shifts in policy and funding within the healthcare landscape, we are more committed than ever to ensuring that we are supporting each individual and family in achieving their behavioral health and wellness goals.”

### **About Jefferson Center for Mental Health**

Celebrating its 60th year, Jefferson Center is a nonprofit, community-focused mental health care and substance use services provider. We offer hope and support to individuals and families who are struggling with mental health and substance use issues. Serving our community is at the core of everything we do. Jefferson Center is an integral part of the communities it serves, understands the needs of communities and has an extensive network of community partnerships and collaborations. Jefferson Center has a variety of programs for people of all ages, from all walks of life. For more information about Jefferson Center, visit [www.jcmh.org](http://www.jcmh.org).

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