

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**New Chief Operations Officer at Jefferson Center No Stranger to Most**

October 17, 2017, Wheat Ridge, CO—The new Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Clinical Services at Jefferson Center for Mental Health, Kiara Kuenzler, Psy.D., has roots in clinical work at the Center that will help her quickly get in the flow of operations much quicker than most—a challenge she says she’s eager to embrace.

“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.”

Dr. Kuenzler worked at Jefferson Center from 2013 to 2015 as a Solutions Now therapist, and was deep in the operation and flow of the ins and outs of clinical work in a very practical way. While a few of the people have changed in their positions over the last few years, the goals and strategic objectives have mostly remained the same.

Her past work is rich and varied. She comes to Jefferson Center as the former Chief Operating Officer at Foothills Behavioral Health Partners, the BHO (Behavioral Health Organization) that manages behavioral health services for Medicaid recipients in Jefferson, Gilpin, and Clear Creek counties as well as Boulder and Broomfield Counties. She has also served previously at AspenPointe Mental Health Center, Kaiser Permanente, and several other entities.

All of her earlier work, she says, equips her to focus on the Center’s mission. “I am 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.”

Dr. Kuenzler assumes the COO role from Dr. Elissa Stein, who has been a catalyst for the development of several new programs at Jefferson Center for nearly three decades before retiring at the end of September.

**About Jefferson Center for Mental Health**

Celebrating its 60th year, Jefferson Center is a nonprofit, community-focused mental health care and substance use disorder 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. We believe an aware, educated community is best poised to support each other.

Every day we partner with like-minded organizations to provide care; we offer education about the realities of mental health; and we create personalized services to meet the needs of our clients. When partnership, prevention, and treatment work together, we help create a healthier, stronger community. For more information about Jefferson Center, visit [www.jcmh.org](http://www.jcmh.org).

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