

NEWS

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Supervisors appoint well-qualified Behavioral Health director

The Board of Supervisors today announced the appointment of Allan Rawland to serve as director of the County of San Bernardino Department of Behavioral Health.

Mr. Rawland is a professional social worker, administrator, educator, public policy practitioner, and community volunteer with more than 38 years of experience in community behavioral health and human services.

He comes to the County of San Bernardino as the director of government relations and program development for Stars Behavioral Health Group. He previously served as an administrator and faculty member with San Jose State University's College of Social Work. He has also served as mental health director for the County of Sonoma and the Santa Clara Valley Health and Hospital System. Mr. Rawland also has served as assistant director and deputy director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and deputy director of the Orange County Human Services Agency.

The Board of Supervisors directed County Administrative Officer Mark Uffer to offer the position to Mr. Rawland after a formal recruitment and interview process, which attracted a wide variety of qualified candidates.

"I am confident Allan will raise the standard of care for the county's mentally ill and play an integral role in the fulfillment of my plan for a unified county health care delivery system," said Mr. Uffer, who has brought under his direct supervision the county's Behavioral Health and Public Health departments and Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

As Behavioral Health director, Mr. Rawland will oversee a department of approximately 600 professionals. Mr. Uffer commended those who have led the Department of Behavioral Health on an interim basis during the past year.

"The county owes a debt of gratitude to Dr. Keith Gordon and Carol Hughes for making sure the Department of Behavioral Health continued to administer quality care in the absence of a permanent director. They did a fine job," Mr. Uffer said.