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General questions: Greg Parker, 503-945-6955

Oregon Department of Human Services announces new head of Children, Adults and Families Division

Erinn Kelley-Siel, Governor Ted Kulongoski's human services advisor, has been named interim Oregon Department of Human Services assistant director for the Children, Adults and Families Division, DHS Director Bruce Goldberg, M.D., announced today.

"I can't think of anyone in Oregon who is better able to step in at this crucial time," said Goldberg. "For the past several years Erinn has been intimately involved in working with the entire spectrum of health and human services issues on a daily basis – child welfare, self-sufficiency, mental health, vocational rehabilitation and more. Erinn brings the background in broad policy experience and familiarity with the issues that we need."

Kelley-Siel agreed to step in as head of CAF following the June 6 death of Bryan Johnston, who had been leading CAF since November 2007. Kelly-Siel will begin her new role July 1, 2008. DHS will continue with its national search for a new assistant director to lead CAF.

"The services CAF employees provide keep vulnerable children safe, feed hungry families, and support the employment and progress toward economic security of thousands of Oregonians," said Kelley-Siel. "I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity to lead the division and to serve the people of Oregon in this role."

For the past five and a half years in her role as an advisor to the Governor, Kelley-Siel has advised Kulongoski and other leaders on issues ranging from reducing Oregon's hunger rate and strengthening protection for children in Oregon's child welfare system to transforming Oregon's public mental health system, making

health care more affordable for all Oregonians, and ensuring a sustainable future for long-term care services for Oregon seniors and people with disabilities.

Prior to joining the Governor's staff Kelley-Siel served as an associate attorney in the Energy and Telecommunications practice group at the Portland-based law firm Stoel Rives LLP. Before that, she served as law clerk to then-Justice Kulongoski at the Oregon Supreme Court.

Kelley-Siel received her law degree from the University of Texas at Austin and holds a degree in psychology from Texas A&M University.

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