



EMPLOYMENT &
HUMAN SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

40 Douglas Drive, Martinez, CA 94553 • (925) 608-5000 • Fax (925) 313-9748 • www.ehsd.org

To: All Staff, Code 2A

Date: March 22, 2022

From: Kathy Marsh, Acting Director

Subject: New EHS Director Marla Stuart

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors has appointed Marla Stuart as EHS Director (see attached announcement from CAO Monica Nino). Marla will fill the position Kathy Gallagher left vacant with her recent retirement. Please join the Executive Team and me in welcoming Marla, who will start at EHS on Monday, April 11, 2022.

Marla most recently served as Deputy Director at Solano County Health & Social Services Department. She oversaw the department's Employment & Eligibility Services Division and 415 staff members who administer CalFresh, CalWORKs, Medi-Cal, and General Assistance. The Division serves nearly 140,000 Solano community members each month, including 45 percent of all children. In 2021, the county distributed \$155 million in public assistance benefits to help individuals and families achieve healthy, safe, and stable lives.



Marla has dedicated 35 years in public service to promoting social justice and ensuring individual and community wellbeing. She started her career in Rockford, Illinois, where she served as a probation officer at a youth detention center and a case manager at an outpatient mental health services clinic. These experiences motivated her to earn a Master of Social Work with an emphasis on community organizing and planned social change.

In 1993, Marla moved to the Diné Nation where she worked for the Indian Health Service, taught at Diné College, served on the local school board, and led Girl Scout troops. In 2007, she moved to California and served at the Sonoma County Human Services Department leading planning, research, and evaluation activities. This work included launching a community-wide initiative (Upstream Investments) to create a public-private shared priority to fund prevention and early intervention services, including early childhood supports. She also volunteered as the editor of a high school newsletter and ensured its distribution, for the first time, in Spanish and English.

In 2013, Marla joined the School of Social Welfare at University of California Berkeley to earn a PhD and learn more about community wellbeing, public-private partnerships in the delivery of health and social services, complex systems, and data science. During this time, she participated in a project in Guiyang, China, supporting local officials in their efforts to improve supports for left-behind children – children who remain with grandparents or other caregivers when their parents move to large cities for work.

Marla is looking forward to getting to know our department and working with our dedicated staff to continue delivering services that support, protect and empower Contra Costa individuals and families.

County Administrator

County Administration Building
1025 Escobar Street, 4th Floor
Martinez, California 94553-1229
(925) 655-2075

Monica Nino
County Administrator

Contra Costa County



Board of Supervisors

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March 22, 2022

Dear Department Heads
Employment and Human Services Department Staff,

RE: New Director of Employment and Human Services – Marla Stuart

Please join me in congratulating and welcoming Marla Stuart on her appointment to the Director of Employment and Human Services, effective April 11, 2022.

Marla comes to us with nine years of specialized executive experience in county Health and Human Services, currently as Deputy Director of the Health & Social Services Department in Solano County. Marla's contact information will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monica Nino".

MONICA NINO
County Administrator

cc: Board of Supervisors; Marla Stuart