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## **FAMILIES SOLUTIONS COLLABORATIVE WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**IRVINE, Calif. (May 28, 2020)** – FAMILY SOLUTIONS COLLABORATIVE announced today that Nikki Buckstead has assumed the role of Executive Director of the Family Solutions Collaborative. Formerly Executive Director at National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) in Sonoma County, Buckstead began at Families Forward May 26, 2020.

“We are excited to welcome Nikki as Executive Director at the Family Solutions Collaborative,” said Carrie Buck, FSC Executive Chair and Executive Director of H.I.S. House. “She brings a wealth of professional experience working with collaborative organizations and a true dedication for our mission to help homeless and at-risk families in Orange County.”

Prior to joining the Family Solutions Collaborative, Nikki spent more than 20 years in the nonprofit sector, including 11 years as CEO of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (Sacramento Regional Affiliate) as well as Executive Director positions at Behavioral Health agencies. Nikki has a results-driven track record of effective management, with experience in establishing and strengthening collaborative structures. Additionally, she directed and initiated policies, procedures and innovative best-practice programs to strengthen partnerships within the community and supportive services organizations. Nikki has played key leadership roles in community building and collaboration throughout California.

“Nikki’s compassion combined with her proven leadership will strengthen the ability of the FSC to make an impact in our community,” said Madelynn Hirneise, CEO of Families Forward, fiscal backbone of the FSC. “We are thrilled to bring her on board as Executive Director.”

Nikki received her BA in Psychology from California State University, Sacramento. Since relocating to Orange County in 2016, she has provided executive coaching and consulting in workplace wellness. Nikki is currently the President of the Holistic Chamber of Commerce, Huntington Beach and Board Member for the She Recovers Foundation.

“I am passionate about the work the Family Solutions Collaborative is doing to help families in Orange County,” said Nikki. “By working alongside 21 extraordinary homeless service provider agencies, the Family Solutions Collaborative can significantly increase the availability of

services for families in need. I am eager to begin contributing to such a dedicated group of organizations.”

**About the Family Solutions Collaborative**

The mission of the Family Solutions Collaborative (FSC) is to have a coordinated family response system that will align resources for homeless families in a streamlined process. The FSC came together as a group of geographically diverse homeless service leaders to analyze the efficacy of current resources for homeless families and inform systemic change that would end homelessness for children and families in Orange County. Primarily funded by the County of Orange and First 5 Orange County, the collaborative has grown to include 21 member agencies, including American Family Housing, Casa Teresa, City Net, Colette’s Children’s Home, Families Forward, Family Assistance Ministries, Family Promise of Orange County, Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, H.I.S. House, HomeAid Orange County, Human Options, Illumination Foundation, Mercy House, OC Gateway to Housing, Orange County Rescue Mission, Pathways of Hope, Project Hope Alliance, The Salvation Army of Orange County, Serving People in Need (SPIN), South County Outreach, and Women’s Transitional Living Center, Inc. (WTLC). For more information about the Family Solutions Collaborative please visit [www.oc-fsc.org](http://www.oc-fsc.org) or Families Forward at [www.families-forward.org](http://www.families-forward.org). Nikki Buckstead can be reached at [nbuckstead@oc-fsc.org](mailto:nbuckstead@oc-fsc.org).

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