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Horizon Behavioral Health CEO Damien Cabezas Announces Resignation

Lynchburg, VA – Horizon CEO Damien Cabezas today announced his resignation from Horizon, effective October 20, 2021. Cabezas became CEO on July 17, 2014.

“It has been the honor of a lifetime to lead Horizon Behavioral Health and to have played a role in advancing Horizon’s mission of supporting and promoting the health, independence and self-worth of individuals and families in Central Virginia. I thank Horizon’s Board of Directors, very talented Horizon team, and esteemed community partners for their ongoing support and dedicated public service during my time here. Thanks for being such wonderful partners.”

Cabezas prioritized Horizon’s operational and financial health, strategic planning, creating a culture of healthy accountability, metrics and reporting, expanding service lines; enhancing brand and community engagement, developing partnerships, and creating a culture of transparency and inclusion.

“I am so proud of what we have achieved collectively. I am incredibly pleased that Horizon has become an integrated service delivery system, addressing physical health, behavioral health, and social determinants of health.”

“Horizon’s Board of Directors are saddened by the resignation of Damien Cabezas. For more than 7 years Damien has provided excellent leadership through some very difficult situations and opportunities. We wish him and his family the very best,” said Mary Lou Spiggle, Horizon’s Board Chairperson.

In the spirit of continuity and stability, as well as avoiding a gap in leadership Horizon’s Board of Directors has named Melissa Lucy, Senior Portfolio Director at Horizon, as its Interim Executive Director effective September 26, 2021. After 21 years of service at Horizon, Melissa brings 24 years of experience in community behavioral health and 18 years of experience in leadership roles. She has dedicated her career to helping children and adults overcome their life challenges with compassion, professional guidance, and caring support.

“On behalf of Horizon’s Board, we proudly name Melissa Lucy as Interim Executive Director. The Board has every confidence in Melissa’s ability to lead Horizon into the future as we continue to serve Central Virginia and the Commonwealth,” said Mary Lou Spiggle, Horizon’s Board Chairperson.



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***Horizon Behavioral Health** has been the primary public behavioral healthcare provider in the Region 2000 area for more than 50 years. In the last year, Horizon provided services to approximately 16,000 adults and children, addressing problems with mental health, substance use and intellectual disabilities. Horizon is accredited by CARF International. This represents the highest level of accreditation that can be given to a behavioral health organization.*