



KIM KOVOL
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PRESS RELEASE

The Alaska Department of Family and Community Services Welcomes Dr. Racheluz “Pinky” Tooyak as Deputy Director of Coordinated Health and Complex Care

JUNEAU, ALASKA – The Alaska Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Racheluz “Pinky” Tooyak, DSW, MS, CRC, ADM as the new Deputy Director of Coordinated Health and Complex Care.

Tooyak earned her Doctor of Social Work from the University of Southern California in May 2024. She holds a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling from San Diego State University, where she received a full scholarship through the American Indian Rehabilitation Program, underscoring her commitment to serving diverse communities. Her academic credentials include a Certificate in Rehabilitation Administration from San Diego State University, completed with a full scholarship, and a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Communication from the University of the Philippines in Diliman. Additionally, Tooyak is a Certified Administrator (ADM) of Behavioral Health Services through the Alaska Commission for Behavioral Health and is set to complete her certification as a Certified Vocational Evaluator (CVE) through the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification this month.

In Tooyak’s new role, she will oversee the provision of services



for youth and adults with complex behavioral and medical needs. Her responsibilities will include leading a dedicated team focused on coordinating complex cases to direct them to the appropriate resources.

As Deputy Director, Tooyak will take charge of developing and implementing policies for delegated programs, proposing revisions to legislation, rules, and regulations, and skillfully defending policy decisions when necessary.

Additionally, strategic planning is a key aspect of this role. Tooyak will be responsible for determining the most efficient planning methods, setting goals and metrics, and effectively communicating policies, strategies, and tactics to achieve the Department's objectives. This appointment marks a significant step in enhancing the quality of care and support provided to individuals with complex needs within DFCS.

"I have full confidence in Dr. Tooyak as our new Deputy Director of Coordinated Health and Complex Care. Her experience with healthcare systems and vulnerable populations is an ideal match for this unit. Her expertise is pivotal as we address the complex needs of vulnerable youth and adults, and as we adapt to the increasing demands of care for Alaskans in need," said Kim Kovol, DFCS Commissioner.

"I am immensely grateful to share my joy in stepping into the role of Deputy Director with the Alas-

ka Department of Family and Community Services," said Tooyak. "In the spirit of unity, I will be leading and supporting the dedicated professionals of the Coordinated Health and Complex Care Team. Together, we will continue to build connections, overcome challenges, and serve those who need it most. My forward-thinking commitment is grounded in a promise to create a more inclusive healthcare system that truly serves everyone in community-driven environments. I treasure this role and am excited to usher in 2025 with purpose and dedication."

Deputy Director Tooyak will be based out of the Anchorage DFCS offices.

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Alaska Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS) includes the Division of Juvenile Justice, Alaska Psychiatric Institute, Alaska Pioneer Homes, and the Office of Children's Services. The mission of DFCS is to provide support, safety, and personal well-being for vulnerable Alaskans.