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# PRESS RELEASE

## **Makayla Viray Appointed as Deputy Director of the Department of Family and Community Services Coordinated Health and Complex Care Unit**

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA** – The Alaska Department of Family and Community Services (DFCS) is pleased to announce the appointment of Makayla Viray, LMSW, as the new Deputy Director of Coordinated Health and Complex Care.

As Deputy Director, Viray will oversee the provision of services for youth and adults with complex behavioral and medical needs, ensuring they receive appropriate care and support. In this role, she will lead a team dedicated to coordinating complex cases and directing individuals to the necessary resources. She will also play a critical role in developing and implementing policies for delegated programs, proposing legislative and regulatory updates, and effectively advocating for policy decisions when necessary.

A key aspect of her role will be strategic planning, including establishing efficient planning methods, setting performance metrics, and ensuring the successful implementation of departmental initiatives. Her leadership will be instrumental in advancing DFCS's mission to enhance the quality of care and services for individuals with complex needs.

This appointment marks a significant step in strengthening the Department's ability to support Alaska's most



vulnerable populations.

Viray holds a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from the University of Alaska Anchorage, earned in May 2022, and she is a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW). She has over 11 years of experience in the field of social work, and has served in various roles, including providing direct services to individuals with complex needs, working with severely emotionally disturbed youth and their families, and serving as a care coordinator for recipients of home and community-based waiver services. In December 2022, she became the first team member of the Coordinated Health and Complex Care Unit, where she has continued to support the advancement of complex care initiatives and the strengthening of services across Alaska. Outside of her professional life, she is a devoted wife and mother to a busy toddler, which provides her with a deep appreciation for the importance of having a family-centered approach to this work.

“We are pleased to announce that Makayla will be leading our Complex Care team. As a key member since its inception, she has played an integral role in shaping our approach. With her extensive knowledge and experience, we are confident she will continue driving this important work forward,” said Clinton Lasley, DFCS Deputy Commissioner.

“I am truly honored to have the opportunity to step into the role of the Deputy Director for the Coordinated Health and Complex Care Unit. This is more than just a position to me; it’s an opportunity to

bring my direct care experience into a leadership role where I can be a part of the collaborative effort of shaping and strengthening services for Alaskans with complex needs,” said Viray. “Having been a part of this unit since its inception, I am excited to continue this important work and collaborate with partners to make a lasting impact on the lives of Alaskans.”

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

To learn more about the Coordinated Health and Complex Care Unit, visit <https://dfcs.alaska.gov/Commissioner/Pages/Complex-Care/default.aspx>

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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.*