

**Yolo County
Board of Supervisors**

Resolution No. 22-21

**Recognizing Karen Larsen
for her service in Yolo County**

WHEREAS, Karen Larsen has served the County of Yolo as the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Director from 2016 to 2022 and as Mental Health Director since 2014; and

WHEREAS, prior to joining the County of Yolo, Ms. Larsen served Yolo residents as a direct service provider and leader at CommuniCare Health Centers, a local community-based organization, since 1999; and

WHEREAS, in her role as HHS Director, Ms. Larsen directed the cross-systems integration of Yolo County's behavioral health, public health, and social services with the goal of supporting Yolo County residents in achieving health, safety and economic stability; and

WHEREAS, in Ms. Larsen's passionate and empathetic tenure as Mental Health Director the Agency has made many improvements including delivery of whole-person and whole-community care through prevention, early detection, evidence-based therapies, family support, medication management, recovery care and utilization of Results Based Accountability to track outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Larsen's innovation improved access to services and outcomes for many of Yolo's most vulnerable residents, including those experiencing homelessness, those involved in the criminal justice system, those with substance use disorders, and our children and youth; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Larsen has overseen the development of HHS as a socially conscious and adaptive organization by prioritizing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in programming, evolving groundwork to implement the Crisis Now Model to provide comprehensive care to individuals experiencing mental health crises, and trauma-informed care for clients and staff; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Larsen has striven to improve outcomes for Yolo County's most vulnerable populations through increased representation of marginalized communities in organizational decision making and acting as a collaborative partner to a myriad of stakeholders and cross department collectives; and

WHEREAS, through her service Ms. Larsen has enhanced the lives of the people of Yolo County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors commends and thanks Karen Larsen for her years of dedicated service to the County of Yolo and wishes her a long, healthy, and happy future.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of February 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: Villegas, Saylor, Sandy, Provenza, Barajas.

Angel Barajas, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors