



For Immediate Release
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Council for the Homeless Announces Leadership Change in February 2018

Kate Budd, Deputy Director, will become Executive Director.
Andy Silver will become CEO of CFTH's Housing Initiative.

Chris Gibbons, President of the Board at Council for the Homeless, today announced the promotion of Kate Budd, current Deputy Director, to become the non-profit organization's new Executive Director, effective February 9, 2018. Budd will replace Andy Silver who will leave the post to become CEO of the Housing Initiative, which is the Council for the Homeless housing development corporation launched in 2016.

"The board and I are extremely pleased to have someone of Kate's experience and skills fully prepared to step in as Executive Director," said Gibbons. *"We are announcing this change well in advance of its effective date next February to ensure seamless continuity through this transition. The Board and I also express our deep appreciation to Andy for all he has done for our organization, the community, and especially those experiencing homelessness,"* he added.

Budd currently oversees the Council's Housing Solutions Center and the Coalition of Service Providers (our local Continuum of Care). Well known as a passionate advocate, Budd has been active on state level policy and advocacy efforts.

"Kate has done a fantastic job as co-chair of our statewide Homeless Advisory Committee and we are thrilled that she will be utilizing her leadership skills and vision at the helm of Council for the Homeless," said Rachael Myers, Executive Director of the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance.

In her new capacity as Executive Director, Budd will continue to champion the importance of having a cross-sector, community-wide vision for preventing and ending homelessness. She will also focus on ensuring that our community has highly coordinated funding and services so that we have an efficient and effective response to homelessness.

"I am thrilled that Kate will be taking over as Executive Director. I know that her knowledge, passion, and leadership skills will have a tremendous benefit for the organization, community and the people we serve," said Andy Silver.

Budd previously worked at Clark County Department of Community Services as a Program Coordinator, focused on Homeless and Housing Programs. She has a Master's Degree in Social Work from Eastern Washington University, is an AmeriCorps alumnus and a 2016 Leadership Clark County graduate.

While the Council for the Homeless has made great strides in leading the community's efforts to have an effective crisis response to homelessness, the rising cost of housing in Clark County continues to present a stubborn challenge. In response, Council for the Homeless created the Housing Initiative last year to increase the amount of housing in our community affordable to those who are suffering the most from the cost of housing. Sierk Braam, who helped launch this work, will continue with the Housing Initiative as Chief Operating Officer. Andy Silver's new role is to lead the initiative, which combines socially motivated investing and public private partnerships to build affordable housing. Plans are in place to break ground on the first development in the spring of 2018.

"The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington worked closely with Council for the Homeless to create the Housing Initiative. I am excited that together, Andy and Sierk will realize the full potential of this work and have a transformative impact our community," said Jennifer Rhoads, President of the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington.

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Council for the Homeless is a non-profit organization that provides community leadership, compelling advocacy, and practical solutions to prevent and end homelessness in Clark County, WA. Founded to coordinate efforts and activities among the many partners addressing homelessness, the Council also leads policy and advocacy efforts to protect tenants and increase access to affordable housing, and operates the Housing Solutions Center, which provides centralized access to shelter and housing assistance for those in need. Our accomplishments include launching the Housing Solutions Center in 2013, leading the successful advocacy efforts for three new tenant protections and an Affordable Housing Levy in Vancouver. A sign of success for the homelessness response system is that 86% of those who we place into housing through the Housing Solutions Center and our partner agencies are still housed after two years.