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### **Deputy Director named for state psychiatric hospital system**

(Columbus) Sandra Stephenson, MSW, MA, Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH), today announced the appointment of Jim Ignelzi as Deputy Director of Integrated Behavioral Healthcare System effective October 1.

"I am very pleased to announce this appointment," said Director Stephenson. "His extensive experience in hospital administration and operations will be an asset as we continue to strive to provide the highest quality services to Ohioans with mental illness."

Mr. Ignelzi has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare since 1991. He replaces Sidney F. Herndon, who has retired from ODMH after 12 years as Deputy Director.

"I am looking forward to the challenge of leading Ohio's state psychiatric hospitals and want to thank Director Stephenson for this opportunity," said Mr. Ignelzi. "I am extremely honored that I will be able to continue serving people with mental illness and their families and supporting their recovery in this new role."

ODMH operates five Behavioral Healthcare Organizations (BHO) representing nine sites that are administratively organized through the Integrated Behavioral Healthcare System office. These facilities provide comprehensive services to patients in both an inpatient and community-supported environment. Services are provided to customers in a competitive healthcare market, that emphasizes quality, consumer recovery, and continued improvement in a therapeutic and healthy environment. All are fully accredited by the Joint Commission.

Mr. Ignelzi received his bachelor's degree in Political Science and Economics from Pennsylvania State University and his master's degree in Social Work from Ohio State University.

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**For more information...**

Contact the [ODMH Office of Communications](#) at 614-466-2297.