



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: September 29, 2021

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HSD ANNOUNCES NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR

The County of Santa Cruz and Human Services Department are pleased to announce the appointment of Kimberly Petersen as HSD's next Deputy Director.

Currently a Division Director overseeing employment and benefits services, Petersen began her career with the County in 2005 as a benefit representative. She has a breadth of experience within the Human Services Department and has held a number of positions including staff development trainer, associate human services analyst, and program manager prior to her appointment to her current position as Division Director.

"I'm very excited to have Kimberly move into this new role," HSD Director Randy Morris said. "Because of her experience, she understands all aspects of a department that impacts the lives of one out of every three Santa Cruz County residents, and is committed to their health, safety and well-being."

"I'm honored to be chosen to serve as Deputy Director," Petersen said. "Human Services has a great team of dedicated professionals and partners working to help families and individuals of all ages who struggle with food, housing, and financial stability, and to keep at risk children and seniors safe in their homes. Collectively we can work toward a thriving community by supporting the dignity and aspirations of the most vulnerable members."

Petersen has a Bachelor's degree in communications with a minor in Spanish, as well as a Master's Degree in International Policy Studies with a specialization in Human Rights. Prior to her career in Human Services, Petersen taught English overseas in both Germany and Ecuador, and served as aide to former Congressman Sam Farr. She also spent four years serving on the Watsonville City Council, including one year as mayor.

Petersen will replace Deputy Director Emily Balli, who is retiring at the end of 2021.