



February 15, 2023

West Central Behavioral Health

Roger Osmun, Ph.D. President & CEO; [rosmun@wcbh.org](mailto:rosmun@wcbh.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**West Central Behavioral Health Announces New Executive Leadership Team Member**

Claremont, Lebanon, and Newport, NH — West Central Behavioral Health, the community mental health center for lower Grafton County (Upper Valley region) and Sullivan County, announces new executive leadership team member.

February 15, 2023 -- Laurie Mudge, LICSW has been promoted to the position of Vice President of Clinical Services at West Central Behavioral Health. Ms. Mudge has served in many roles at West Central over her 25-year tenure at the agency, most recently in the capacity of Director of Children's Services. Laurie was chosen from a select pool of candidates and has a proven track record of ensuring quality services are provided in a sustainable manner and that her team is supported in those endeavors. The agency's leadership team has the fullest confidence in Laurie's ability to assist the organization in this new capacity, especially as the organization embraces new opportunities and challenges related to obtaining Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) status.

Ms. Mudge steps into this role as Nancy Nowell, Ph.D. makes a transition into a role that will be critical to West Central's CCBHC success. In this new function, Dr. Nowell will be facilitating the agency's emerging staff development efforts; efforts to re-invigorate graduate field placements (and potentially undergraduate opportunities) within the organization and spearheading the agency's Zero Suicide initiative. West Central is grateful to Dr. Nowell for her years in the VP role, and we look forward to how she will assist the organization in these new areas.

*West Central Behavioral Health is the non-profit community mental health center for the lower Grafton County and Sullivan County, NH region. Our mission is to promote the health and quality of life of individuals, families and communities by providing treatment for mental illness and substance use disorders, while helping to reduce the stigma associated with these challenging conditions.*

*With locations in Claremont, Lebanon, and Newport, NH, West Central offers adult outpatient services, child & family services, early childhood services, substance use services, 24/7 mobile crisis services, integrated care, and residential services. The NH Rapid Response crisis helpline is 833-710-6477. Learn more online at: [www.wcbh.org](http://www.wcbh.org).*

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