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Lt. Governor

Larry Hogan
Governor

Sam Abed
Secretary

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Betsy Fox Tolentino Promoted to Deputy Secretary of Community Operations

Baltimore, MD – The Maryland General Assembly passed legislation creating a new Deputy Secretary position within DJS to oversee community operations. This past Spring, Governor Hogan signed the legislation into law and Betsy Fox Tolentino has been selected to fill this important position. This newly-created executive position will oversee Pre-Adjudication Services, Community Supervision, Equity and Inclusion, and the Resource Office. She joins Lynette Holmes and Wallis Norman as Deputy Secretaries of the Department.

“Throughout her decade-long tenure with DJS, Betsy has demonstrated a commitment to excellence and advocacy on behalf of DJS youth and families,” said Secretary Abed. “I have no doubt that she will be successful in her new position as Deputy Secretary of Community Operations as she helps drive our reform efforts to move the agency forward.”

Tolentino’s promotion will support the Department’s realignment of its regional community teams and will strengthen DJS’ operational structure.

To promote community collaboration, improve our continuum of services and ensure youth are supported at all stages of the juvenile justice system, DJS created smaller regional teams that directly align with the Maryland Judicial Circuits. DJS has moved from six operational regions to eight operational regions. Regional Directors will oversee the intake, community supervision, and community detention operations in each region.

Tolentino brings more than 10 years of experience at the Department serving as Director of Legislation, Policy, and Communications, Executive Director of Pre-Adjudication Services and Reform, and Assistant Secretary of Strategic Initiatives, assisting the Baltimore City DJS Team in strengthening relationships with system stakeholders, and developing new initiatives to improve outcomes for youth.

Prior to DJS, Tolentino spent five years with the Maryland Office of the Public Defender, two years with Maryland Legal Aid, and has been a board member of several organizations including the Maryland Foster Youth Resource Center and Maryland MENTOR.

Tolentino earned her law degree from Widener University School of Law and graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Southern Oregon University.

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