

Press Release
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Alexis Whitham
Director of Communications, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
970-541-9048, awhitham@coloradocoalition.org

Cathy Alderman
Chief Communications and Public Policy Officer, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
303-319-9155, calderman@coloradocoalition.org

**Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Selects Britta Fisher as New President & CEO
John Parvensky to Retire After 38 Years**

Denver, CO – The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (the Coalition) is pleased to announce and welcome Britta Fisher to the position of President & CEO. With over 20 years of experience in Colorado addressing the needs of people living at low incomes and with housing insecurity, Britta Fisher will fill the role at the Coalition following a comprehensive months-long national search. Fisher will succeed John Parvensky, the Coalition’s founder, who announced his planned retirement in 2022 and has led the organization for all of its 38 years.

Fisher currently serves as the Executive Director of the City of Denver’s Department of Housing Stability (HOST), which under her tenure has grown to a staff of 120 employees and a budget of \$270M. With appointments by both Republican and Democratic Governors, Fisher has served on the Blue-Ribbon Panel on Housing, the State Housing Board, and the Affordable Housing Strategy Group convened by US Senator Michael Bennett. She was named the City & County of Denver’s Most Supportive Leader 2022 and honored as a 40 Under 40 in 2017 by the Denver Business Journal. Nationally, Fisher serves as the Chair of the High-Cost Cities Housing Forum, a group of nine cities with the highest cost housing in the United States. Prior to her tenure at HOST, Fisher served as the Executive Director of three organizations, mpowered, Localworks, and Housing Justice, and previously worked for the Coalition in two roles in the mid-2000s, including in rural and women’s health. For the Coalition, Fisher’s selection will be a welcome homecoming.

“The search team assessed candidates from across the country with expertise in the fields of affordable housing, health care, and serving people experiencing homelessness. Britta Fisher’s commitment to the sector, strong experience in the local landscape, and strong long-term relationship with the Coalition made her the clear choice to lead the organization. We are ecstatic to welcome Britta back to the Coalition family.” said Coalition board chair Joel Neckers.

Fisher will take the reins from the retiring John Parvensky, who built the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless from a small advocacy group in 1985 into a nationally recognized leader in providing integrated health care and building innovative housing for people experiencing homelessness. In that time, the Coalition grew from a staff of six with a budget of \$100,000 in 1985 to a staff of 750 with a \$100 million operating budget in 2023.

Parvensky added: “The most important role of the CEO of the Coalition is to lead a talented group of committed employees to continue to serve our unhoused neighbors and those at risk of

homelessness through housing, health care, and supportive services. Britta Fisher has the experience, statewide knowledge, passion, and heart to continue and expand the important work of the Coalition without missing a beat. With Britta on board, leading an awesome staff, I can “ride off into the sunset” confident that the Coalition is in the absolute best hands to continue creating lasting solutions to homelessness.”

Fisher is energized by the challenge of the new role, following her 16 years of experience in executive leadership: “It is a true honor to succeed a legacy leader like John Parvensky and steward this successful team and organization in its continued evolution.”

The Coalition operates 22 residential properties and provides rental assistance for another 2,000 tenants in apartments owned by other landlords. The organization also serves more than 15,000 individuals yearly at the Stout Street Health Center, a federally qualified health center, and additional satellite clinics that provide medical care to Coloradans in need. In addition, the Coalition operates the Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community in Las Animas, Colorado for residents exiting homelessness who are struggling with a substance use disorder and who are ready to enter the pathway to recovery.

The formal leadership transition is scheduled for March of 2023.

About Colorado Coalition for the Homeless:

The mission of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless is to work collaboratively toward the prevention of homelessness and the creation of lasting solutions for people experiencing and at-risk of homelessness throughout Colorado. The Coalition advocates for and provides a continuum of housing and a variety of services to improve the health, well-being and stability of those it serves. Since its founding, the organization has earned state and national recognition for its integrated healthcare, housing and service programs. The Coalition’s comprehensive approach addresses the causes of homelessness, as well as the consequences, offering critical assistance to over 22,000 individuals and families each year. Learn more at