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Commissioners Appoint Future Director of Job and Family Services

The Board of Lake County Commissioners announced on December 3, 2020 that they have selected Willoughby resident Suzanne Casar as the next Director of the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services after current Director, Matthew Battiato retires in May of 2021.

Casar has been employed at JFS since 2005 beginning her career as a child protective social worker and was then promoted to the position of Lake County Family and Children First Council Coordinator in 2013. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Social Administration from Case Western Reserve University and is a Licensed Social Worker by the State of Ohio.

With plenty of time to transition into her role, Casar is excited about the opportunity. "I am looking forward to working with the Commissioners and am honored that they have selected me for this role. I am grateful to lead an organization that provides critical programs and services to the community."

One of the challenges she anticipates is the long term impact of the COVID-19 crisis on our community and on our most vulnerable citizens. "Although COVID-19 has affected all of us, I think it has created a particular challenge for children and seniors." Casar said. "Lake County Job and Family Services has and will continue to provide resources and support to children and seniors during the pandemic."

"I think that the county and JFS will really benefit from having Suzanne in this position," Battiato said. "She is well respected in the community and her compassion, poise and experience will serve her well. The Commissioners did an excellent job with this selection."

Jason Boyd, County Administrator, echoed those thoughts. "I am excited to work with Suzanne and I know she will be a great addition to our County Management Team. I also appreciate the Commissioners allowing us to have 6 months to transition this role from Matt to Suzanne. This type of workforce planning and transitioning is vital to ensure that Lake County continues to provide services to our residents at a high level."