



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 31, 2024

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KERN REGIONAL CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Enrique Roman will replace outgoing Executive Director Dr. Michi Gates

BAKERSFIELD – The Kern Regional Center (KRC) Board of Directors announced today its decision to permanently appoint Enrique Roman as its new Executive Director effective immediately.

Enrique has served as interim Executive Director since September when Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Dr. Michi Gates as the Chief Deputy Director to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The Board conducted a thorough search of candidates before making its final determination this week.

“The Board is grateful Enrique was willing to provide leadership to KRC during our recent transition and pleased that he has accepted taking on this role permanently,” said Board President Tracey Mensch. “We look forward to working with Enrique as he leads his team and collaborates with our community to continue improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities in our region.”

Prior to his interim appointment, Enrique had been serving as KRC’s Director of Community Services since 2021. In this capacity, he oversaw the agency’s resource development, contracting, and quality assurance/improvement with the service provider community. Other responsibilities included management of various Service Access and Equity initiatives and implementation of the Self-Determination Program. Before coming to KRC, Enrique held many roles during his 18-year tenure at the Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center (Los Angeles) including service coordinator, regional manager, assistant director, departing as their Associate Director of Client and Family Services.

Enrique has a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies and a Master of Arts in Education from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and also holds a Masters in Business Administration from Woodbury University.

He will be headquartered in the Bakersfield office in Kern County.

Kern Regional Center is a private, non-profit organization under contract with the State Department of Developmental Services to provide services and supports to 14,500 people with developmental disabilities in Inyo, Kern and Mono Counties.