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Local mental health director appointed associate state commissioner

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The executive director of South Central Alabama Mental Health Board is joining the state Department of Mental Health as an associate commissioner.



Diane Baugher has been named associate commissioner for mental health and substance abuse, effective Oct. 1, 2016.

Baugher joined the local mental health center in 2009, and previously was the chief financial officer of Mental Health Center of North Central Alabama in Decatur.

An Andalusia native, Baugher earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from Athens University, her MBA from Liberty University, and is a Certified Public Accountant.

"Diane brings experience and a proven track record of success in the delivery of mental health services, which will be invaluable in attaining the Alabama Department of Mental Health, goals and objectives," Jim Perdue, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Mental Health, said.

"I am confident that Diane will be an excellent match for this position, she is a visionary leader and will be a powerful asset to the department's team," he said.

Perdue previously served as probate judge of Crenshaw County, and chairman of the South Central Alabama Mental Health Board.

The local board has appointed a committee to begin the search for Baugher's replacement.

Baugher said she will continue to maintain her Andalusia residence.

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