



**CSH Names Castro New Director in Texas
Sees State as National Leader & Model**

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Houston TX – CSH, a national nonprofit committed to advancing solutions that use housing as a platform for services to improve the lives of vulnerable people in our society, has named Lisa Castro as director in its Texas office.

CSH has made an impact in Texas, particularly in Houston, promoting and increasing the development of supportive housing, a proven solution that reduces chronic (longer-term) homelessness and serves many other vulnerable people such as veterans who are homeless, mentally ill persons leaving state institutions, and those reentering communities from jails or prisons.

Supportive housing links affordable housing access to sustained, community-based services that address the often complex needs of formerly homeless residents and those who could become homeless, assisting individuals and families at risk of housing instability.

“CSH has been working actively in Texas since 2008 and we are proud the state is viewed as a national leader in creating supportive housing,” said new director Castro. “What happens in Texas reverberates throughout the country and we expect others will continue to see us as the model as we partner with local communities and healthcare providers on groundbreaking projects that promote enhanced services for supportive housing residents, improving their health and reducing their overreliance on crisis healthcare.”

Castro emphasized that she is looking forward to growing CSH initiatives in Texas, such as:

- Policies, programs and practices that emphasize the links between housing and healthcare.
- Working with selected communities in Texas to design collaborative models in which Medicaid-funded care management services are paired with federal/local housing resources.

- Identifying new housing opportunities for frequent users of high-cost services - such as emergency rooms and inpatient mental health services.
- Developing collaborative relationships with hospital systems and other healthcare providers to advance the needs of supportive housing tenants and create partnerships that enhance the delivery of community services.
- Enhancing and further growing coordinated assessment of needs and programs so that public service systems are communicating and cooperating when they exchange information and services to help the most vulnerable people in society.

“We are fortunate to have someone with Lisa’s extensive background in healthcare leadership join our team,” said Katrina Van Valkenburgh, Managing Director of CSH Central Region. “CSH is most impressed with her commitment and what she has been able to deliver as an innovator who brought managed care and behavioral health providers together to improve service delivery and reduce recidivism among patients with a history of overutilization. It is clear she knows the ins and outs of delivering better, more-efficient health, mental health and substance use services, and how housing can be used to achieve that goal of improved care across the board.”

Castro brings a wealth of experience and credentials to her new position. She most recently served as Executive Director of Clinical Services at West Oaks Hospital, a UHS hospital, in Houston. Prior to that, she was tasked with oversight of Star Plus Medicaid consumers for United Behavioral Health, now Optum. She has worked significantly in psychiatric clinical care, mental health and substance use services.

Castro holds her MBA in Healthcare Management from Western Governor’s University; her MSW from Hunter College, CUNY; and a BS in Human Services and Community Organization from Empire State College, SUNY. She is a licensed clinical social work supervisor.

More information about CSH is available at www.csh.org. Specific information regarding CSH Texas can be found at www.csh.org/csh-in-the-field/texas/

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