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**Horizon Behavioral Health Announces Chief Executive Officer**

**Lynchburg, VA –**The Board of Directors at Horizon Behavioral Health today announced that Melissa Lucy has been named as Chief Executive Officer of Horizon Behavioral Health effective January 16, 2022.

Melissa Lucy is a licensed professional counselor with 24 years of experience in community behavioral health. She has been with Horizon Behavioral Health for 23 of her 24 years in behavioral health and has served in senior management for 18 years. Ms. Lucy has worked in various rolls with Horizon, giving her a broad background in behavioral health. As a senior leader with Horizon, she represented the organization at both the state and national level and was instrumental in the establishment of the Crisis Intervention Team Coalition in the Central Virginia region. Her experience as a leader and direct service provider includes program development, evaluation, strategic planning and oversight of a portfolio of services, including emergency mental health, forensic services, psychiatric services, primary care, and youth and family behavioral health services.

“We strongly believe that Melissa Lucy is the right person for the job.” says Chair of the Board at Horizon. “Her enthusiasm, knowledge and experience in mental health, substance use and developmental disabilities gives us confidence that she will keep Horizon moving forward, thereby continuing to make a strong impact in our community.”

Ms. Lucy stated, “I am truly humbled and consider it a great honor to serve our community in this new capacity, alongside an exceptional team and with the support of an active Board of Directors. This is a pivotal time in the field of behavioral health, but also an equally challenging time for our communities and families across the country and the commonwealth. I would like to sincerely thank the dedicated staff at Horizon, our Board of Directors, our community partners and the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services whose unwavering support has allowed Horizon to provide dependable, uninterrupted services throughout the public health emergency.”

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***Horizon Behavioral Health*** *has been the premier public behavioral healthcare provider in the Region 2000 area for more than 50 years. In the last year, Horizon provided services to approximately 16,000 adults and children, addressing problems with mental health, substance use and intellectual disabilities. Horizon is accredited by CARF International. This represents the highest level of accreditation that can be given to a behavioral health organization.*