

Center for Human Services' Executive Director announces retirement

Tom Barr announced on Monday, June 7th he will retire as the Executive Director for the McLean County Center for Human Services (CHS) on March 31, 2022. CHS is the community mental health center for McLean County.

Tom's tenure with CHS will have spanned nearly 43 years. Beginning his career as an Outpatient Therapist, Tom has held numerous clinical and administrative roles and has served as the Executive Director since 2002. "The agency has grown from a handful of staff in an old storefront building that no longer exists to the organization it is today serving over 3,500 people annually."

Although the behavioral health field has changed significantly over the decades, Tom is most proud of the agency's steadfast commitment to its mission of providing quality care to those with the greatest needs and fewest resources. "It's a great organization that is dedicated to client care. I've been fortunate to serve in a variety of roles during the agency's expansion in literally all of its programs and to be surrounded by excellent professionals throughout my career who are committed to providing care to those with severe and pervasive mental illnesses," said Tom.

Keith Gehrand, CHS Board President, said, "We appreciate Tom's willingness to continue to serve and assist us in the search process for his successor. His experience and years of service in the community behavioral health field will help the Board find a Director that will allow CHS to continue serving McLean County with the highest quality of services. The extended notice of Tom's plan to retire will allow the Board time to make a deliberate and planful decision about Tom's successor." More details about the search process will be forthcoming.

"I'm confident the governing Board will make an excellent decision," said Tom. "Whoever assumes my role will find superior staff and a clinically and financially strong organization that is relentlessly committed to serving the most vulnerable of our community."