

CONTACT:

Janis Rizzuto
Director, Communications
714-246-8837
jrizzuto@caloptima.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALOPTIMA APPOINTS KELLY BRUNO-NELSON TO NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION FOCUSED ON MEDI-CAL, CALAIM

Bruno-Nelson brings decades of experience and commitment to health equity

ORANGE, Calif. (May 24, 2022) — Kelly Bruno-Nelson joins CalOptima as Executive Director, Medi-Cal/CalAIM, a new leadership role to focus on oversight of the agency’s main health plan and its further development through the statewide California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative. Bruno-Nelson brings more than 25 years of experience serving vulnerable populations in Southern California through innovative work in health care and nonprofit organizations.

“CalOptima is an exciting place to be as the momentum builds in executing strategies that further strengthen health care for Orange County’s Medi-Cal population,” Bruno-Nelson says. “I’m looking forward to guiding the health plan’s evolution via CalAIM. The initiative is transformative in focusing on serving the whole person and striving for health equity, which are principles I’ve sought to advance my entire career.”

Prior to joining CalOptima, Bruno-Nelson was President and Chief Executive Officer of National Health Foundation (NHF), a Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization working to improve the health of underserved communities. NHF is a leader in developing recuperative care facilities for individuals experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles and in addressing health disparities rooted in the social determinants of health. Prior to NHF, Bruno-Nelson was Vice President of ONEgeneration in Van Nuys, California, a nationally recognized organization that provided an intergenerational program of adult day health care and childcare that brought together frail elderly and young children. Her earlier career also included leadership roles at a nursing home and in hospital-based social work.

“Kelly brings the right background at the right time,” says Michael Hunn, CalOptima Chief Executive Officer. “Her new executive role will ensure CalOptima remains mission-driven in service to our community’s nearly 900,000 Medi-Cal members. Changes to Medi-Cal are ongoing, and Kelly’s collaborative leadership will help CalOptima create and respond to the opportunities ahead.”

Bruno-Nelson holds a bachelor’s degree in social work from Azusa Pacific University and a master’s degree in social work from California State University, Long Beach. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in social work from University of Southern California.

###

About CalOptima

A county organized health system, CalOptima provides publicly funded health care coverage for low-income children, adults, seniors and people with disabilities in Orange County, California. CalOptima’s mission is to serve member health with excellence and dignity, respecting the value and needs of each person. In total, CalOptima serves more than 886,000 members with a network of more than 10,500 primary care doctors and specialists as well as 41 acute and rehab hospitals.