



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CENTRIA AUTISM ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE CLINICAL DIRECTOR**

*The appointment demonstrates Centria's commitment to clinical excellence through skilled leadership*

**Farmington Hills, MI** - The rising prevalence of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), along with expanded coverage of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy in more states and by more insurance plans, is leading more families to seek treatment options. To meet the growing demand, Centria Autism, a division of Centria Healthcare and a leading national provider of ABA therapy for children with autism, has announced the appointment of Heather Hettinger as Executive Clinical Director of New Markets & Growth. Hettinger will lead Centria Autism into new markets across the country where children are stuck on wait-lists and not receiving services they desperately need.

Heather is currently pursuing her doctorate in Psychology from Cal Southern and is projected to finish in early 2020. She received her Master's degree in Special Education with a focus in Severe Emotional Disturbances from Florida State University. After four years as a Special Education teacher in a classroom setting, she chose to pursue further education in the field of applied behavior analysis (ABA). She completed her course work to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) at the University of West Florida.

"I'm thrilled to join Centria Autism. It's the perfect place to put my experience, education, and passion for ABA into action," said Hettinger. "My long-term goal aligns perfectly with Centria's, which is to help every child living with autism develop, pursue, and achieve their own goals and dreams through high-quality ABA therapy and support."

Heather has dedicated her career to providing the best possible assistance to individuals with special needs. Her experience as both a clinician and an administrator gives her unique insight to educate pediatricians, child psychologists, special education teachers, and directors about early detection and how Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is the only proven treatment for symptoms associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

"We know that approximately 70 thousand children are diagnosed with ASD each year. We also know that ABA is the only scientifically based method for treating the symptoms associated with autism," said Scott Barry, Centria Autism CEO. "Under Heather's leadership, I'm confident that we'll have continued success at offering quality ABA to more and more families throughout the US."



## Quick Facts

- 1 in 59 children have autism
- Centria Autism helps parents of children with autism navigate through the complex system of insurance, care and just knowing that they are not alone.
- Centria operates in 11 states, over 3,500 experienced and trained staff and provides services for thousands of children.

## About Centria Autism:

Centria Autism, an operating division of Centria Healthcare, is a leading national provider of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy for children with autism and their families. With its national headquarters in Michigan, and more than 3,500 clinical staff working in 11 states, Centria's Optimal Outcomes approach combines child-centered, evidence-based ABA with best practices to help children with ASD have the best developmental experience possible and acquire the skills to live independently and succeed in the world on their own terms.

For more information, please visit <http://www.centriaautism.com>

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