



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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T-KEA BLACKMAN JOINS ABHW AS DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PROGRAMS

Washington, DC (March 21, 2022) – The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW), the national voice for payers that manage behavioral health insurance benefits for over 200 million people, today announced the appointment of T-Kea Blackman, MPS, CPRS, as Director of Communications and Programs. In her role, Ms. Blackman will be responsible for public relations, marketing, communications, ABHW's Corporate Partner Program, and the association's Stamp Out Stigma initiative.

"T-Kea brings not only her communications background but her lived experience with a mental illness," said ABHW President and CEO, Pamela Greenberg. "Her experiences allow her to provide a unique perspective and we are excited to have her on the team."

A communications professional with over 10 years' experience, Blackman previously assisted with leading communications and event planning efforts in the entertainment industry before transitioning into the behavioral health field as a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist. She was most recently the Peer Support and Education Specialist for The Maryland Employment Network. She received the Program Leader of the Year award by Maryland's National Alliance on Mental Illness and produced a mental health and substance use storytelling show for This Is My Brave. In addition, she leads a variety of trainings such as Mental Health First Aid and Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP).

"Living with a diagnosis and surviving a suicide attempt is not something many professionals discuss in the workplace; however, I can use my experience as a peer specialist and consumer of mental health treatment to help further ABHW's mission to ensure better health outcomes for all individuals and communities," stated Ms. Blackman. "I am honored to join the ABHW team."

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ABHW is the leading health plan association working to improve access and quality of care for mental health and substance use disorders. ABHW's members include national and regional health plans who care for more than 200 million people. Together we work to reduce stigma and advance federal policy on mental health and addiction care.

Member companies - Aetna Behavioral Health, AmeriHealth Caritas, Anthem/Beacon, Centene Corporation/Magellan Health, Evernorth, a Cigna company, Kaiser Permanente, New Directions Behavioral Health, and Optum.