



For Immediate Release

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Partnership CEO Elizabeth Gibboney to retire; Deputy CEO/COO Sonja Bjork selected to fill post

FAIRFIELD – Elizabeth Gibboney, chief executive officer of Partnership HealthPlan of California, will retire effective July 1, 2023, initially announcing her plans to staff and Partnership’s Board of Commissioners last August. On Wednesday, May 3, the board announced that Partnership Deputy CEO/Chief Operating Officer Sonja Bjork has been selected as the third CEO in Partnership’s history.

“I have enjoyed a fulfilling and personally meaningful 29-year career at Partnership,” Gibboney shared. “It has been an honor to serve as the organization’s leader, a job which has taught me so much about health and health care, leadership, resilience, and the healing power of humor. I am thrilled that Sonja will head our extremely strong and deep leadership in collaborating with our Board of Commissioners to position Partnership to flourish and experience continued success for many years.”

Prior to becoming CEO in July 2015, Liz served as deputy CEO and spent eight years as chief operating officer at Partnership. She started just prior to Partnership’s launch in 1994 and was integral in each of Partnership’s five (soon to be sixth) expansions – from one county (Solano) in 1994 to the 14 served by Partnership today, and soon to be 24 counties in 2024.

“We are grateful for Liz’s vision and leadership to ensure our most vulnerable populations receive the care they need and deserve,” said Partnership Board Chair Alicia Hardy, CEO of OLE Health, who also served as chair of the CEO selection committee. “It was clear that Sonja’s considerable history with Partnership, her operational experience, legal training, and leadership abilities made her an exceptional candidate.”

Bjork takes the helm as Partnership is poised for its sixth geographic expansion (to 10 additional Northern California counties) in 2024, and the continued implementation of the state’s ambitious CalAIM transformation of the Medi-Cal program.

“This is an exciting time to be engaged in health care, especially serving our communities most vulnerable populations,” Bjork said. “The state has dedicated more resources than ever before to

support the Medi-Cal population; additionally, we have a heightened awareness of the social challenges that impact the health of our members. I am grateful to Liz for her leadership and guidance, and I look forward to continued collaboration with our board, staff, providers, and the community.”

Bjork has worked at Partnership for nearly 19 years. She previously worked as an attorney representing youth in the child welfare system and advocated for low-income Solano County residents. Bjork received a juris doctorate from UC Berkeley School of Law. She has a bachelor of arts degree in sociology with a concentration in analysis and research from University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The Partnership board worked with Morgan Consulting, a national recruitment firm, for the CEO selection process.

About Partnership HealthPlan of California: Partnership is a nonprofit community-based health care organization that contracts with the state to administer Medi-Cal benefits. Partnership provides quality care to over 692,000 Medi-Cal members. Beginning in Solano County in 1994 Partnership now provides services to 14 Northern California counties – Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Trinity, and Yolo. Starting in 2024, Partnership will also serve Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter, Tehama, and Yuba counties. Learn more about Partnership online at www.partnershiphp.org.