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**Bexar County announces Director of Preventative Health and Environmental Services Department**

After a nationwide search, Bexar County is proud to introduce Andrea Guerrero-Guajardo, Ph.D., MPH as the Director of Preventative Health and Environmental Services Department.

Dr. Guerrero-Guajardo will oversee the newly created department, authorized in May 2022, comprised of County health related services. The department will align and establish priorities to provide continuous quality improvement of public health needs and use health equity as a lens in all work and strategic decision-making for improved health outcomes.

“COVID and diabetes related deaths were not seen evenly through our community. We need to address the health inequalities and outcomes to better prepare for the next health care emergency. Today’s appointment is the next big step towards addressing this”, stated Bexar County Manager David Smith.

Dr. Guerrero-Guajardo hails from Alvin, Texas where she and her family relied upon public health services, which sparked her interest in medicine and public health. With over 20 years of experience in public health and community-based programs, she brings a wealth of knowledge and hands-on experience. Known as a data-driven innovator and strategic thinker, Dr. Guerrero-Guajardo is a staunch advocate for community identified priorities and improvements.

Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff stated, “Going through COVID and not having the expertise on hand was a bit challenging. Andrea knows this community and knows the health problems we face. I’m confident that with her guidance we’ll be able to get ahead of some of these underlying issues such as heart disease and diabetes.”

Dr. Guerrero-Guajardo has a Bachelor’s of Arts Degree in Biology, a Master’s Degree in Public Health with a concentration in Disease Control from UT Health Science Center Houston School of Public Health and a Doctorate in Education/Organizational Leadership & Program Evaluation from the University of the Incarnate Word.

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“I am honored to have been selected for this position and to serve the people of Bexar County in this capacity. For most of my childhood and young adult life, I was a user of a "free" system that was the only source of healthcare for families living in poverty. Some services were preventative care, but most care was only available when you were very sick. I know what it means to lack access to care and to have limited options for creating a healthy life. Health disparities have long existed in Bexar County, and those disparities are even more pronounced in unincorporated areas. I sincerely appreciate the support of the County Manager and the Court, and I am confident that we can create real impact on health and wellness for individuals and families - and be in an excellent position to respond for the people of Bexar County if and when the next public health emergency occurs,” stated Dr. Guerrero-Guajardo.

Dr. Andrea Guerrero-Guajardo will start on November 10, 2022.

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