



County of Cayuga

County Administrator
J. Justin Woods, JD, MPA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Air Guard Public Health Officer to lead County's Veterans Service Agency

Cayuga County is pleased to announce that the County Legislature appointed 1st Lt. Jessica Strassle as the new Director of the Cayuga County Veterans Service Agency (VSA). 1st Lt. Strassle is a US Air Force veteran, Public Health Officer in the Air National Guard, and has specific experience coordinating programs for military members, veterans, and their families through her work as a Veteran Navigator at Lourdes Hospital in Binghamton. She relocated to Port Byron last year, and currently works at Cayuga Centers in Auburn. Ms. Strassle holds a Master of Public Health and is pursuing a Master of Social Work. She will assume her duties with the county in September.

1st Lt. Strassle was nominated for the position by County Administrator J. Justin Woods following interviews by a selection committee that included department heads and several veterans. The committee interviewed six strong candidates and felt that 1st Lt. Strassle demonstrated the skills and experience necessary for the director position. Her responsibilities will include counseling, advising and assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits to the Veteran's Administration, the Armed Forces, and all federal, state, and county agencies, as well as other critical management and budgeting duties for the department. The position has been vacant since June 1, 2018 when Larry Wilt, the County's previous VSA Director, retired.

"We were fortunate to have a very strong candidate pool," said J. Justin Woods, County Administrator. "The veterans on the interview committee and I were very impressed with 1st Lt. Strassle, and I am confident that with her experience and enthusiasm, she will do an outstanding job leading the team that serves our county veterans."

"The County's VSA has the important role of assisting and advocating for veterans and their families," said Charles Ripley, County Legislator and a US Marine Corps veteran who participated in the interviews. "The competition was very keen, however in my estimation 1st Lt. Strassle has everything going for her, and she will do the county and the veterans here an astounding service!"

The county's Veterans Service Agency counsels and assists veterans and their dependents in areas such as pension and compensation, health and medical, rehabilitation, educational and life insurance services. The agency also advocates on behalf of veterans and their families to ensure they receive the maximum benefits to which they are entitled under federal, state, and local law.

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JESSICA STRASSLE, MPH
FIRST LIEUTENANT, AIR NATIONAL GUARD
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EDUCATION & TRAINING

Master of Social Work, (Expected 2020), Fordham University, New York, New York

Master of Public Health (2015), Benedictine University, Lisle, Illinois

Bachelor of Arts (2013), Biological Science, Binghamton University, Vestal, New York

Certified Health Education & Promotion; Certified Health Care Management; Motivational Interviewing Certified; SBIRT (Mental Health) Certified; Adult & Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cayuga Centers, Auburn, New York

Behavioral Case Planner, October 2017-Present

Supervise case managers with a combined caseload of 12 youths. Participate in Clinical Team meetings, and provide input regarding TST Treatment Plans. Coordinate care with social services, schools, probation, mental health, etc. Prepares court summaries and attends hearings as youth advocate. Responds to youth/family in crises utilizing de-escalation strategies to stabilize home.

Air National Guard, Hancock Air Base, New York

Public Health Officer (Rank: 1st Lieutenant), November 2016-Present

Promotes public health through surveillance of disease trends, food safety, sanitation, etc. Initiates and directs preventative medicine and communicable disease control programs. Directs occupational health programs, and serves as liaison to other agencies. Provides medical information to members deploying or in disaster relief operations. Conducts out-processing connecting military members to VA services and benefits.

Lourdes Hospital, Binghamton, New York

Veteran Navigator/Home Health Case Manager, April 2016- October 2017

Completed needs assessments with veterans and developed individual treatment plans. Collected data and analyzed data to determine gaps in care for veterans. Designed electronic file system and maintained files for Veteran medical records. Conducted research, completed and submitted grants for additional programs and services. Organized seminars for veterans with community parents to education on veteran benefits. Connected veterans to services in the community, assisted with applying for benefits.

UHS Wilson Medical Center, Johnson City (Binghamton Area), New York

Diet Assistant, January 2012-January 2015

Provided nutrition education to veterans. Created dietary restrictions and maintained meal database. Submitted referrals and connected veterans to services for claim denial.

United States Air Force

Services Journeyman, October 2005 to October 2009

Assessed health training needs and implanted health education and fitness programs. Maintained equipment and inventory at fitness center. Responsible for budgeting and finance accountability
