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ROBERT LEE NAMED OKLAHOMA YOUTH CENTER DIRECTOR

Robert Lee has been named executive director of the Oklahoma Youth Center in Norman, a state-operated facility providing inpatient services for children under the age of 18. The appointment, effective Monday, Sept. 15, was announced at the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services' September meeting, held Friday in Tulsa.

Lee was director of the Central Oklahoma Community Mental Health Center for nine years prior to the appointment. While at Central Oklahoma CMHC, he also served in various other capacities, including chief of social work, outpatient counselor and therapist.

Over the past several years, Lee has worked with the University of Oklahoma's School of Social Work, Norman Public Schools and other community partners to develop programs designed to reduce violence in school settings, such as the "Kid Sense Violence Prevention Project," sponsored by Central Oklahoma CMHC. He also was instrumental in helping ODMHSAS develop alternative housing sites for those with severe mental illness, and is a member of the board of directors for the McKenzie Gardens housing project.

Lee also has been active with the OU Health Sciences Center's Geriatric Education Center, collaborating with them to expand geriatric training to community

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Robert Lee/2

mental health centers across Oklahoma. He has served as an adjunct faculty member at the OU School of Social Work and the OU Health Sciences Center. He is presently secretary/treasurer for the OU School of Social Work's board of visitors, staff liaison to the Tulsa County Regional Advisory Board, and a past chair of the local Social Services Coordinating Council.

Before joining ODMHSAS, he was director of shelter services for Youth and Family Services in El Reno, and a social worker with the Comanche County Health Department and Guidance Center in Lawton.

A graduate of Yukon High School, Lee holds a master's degree in social work from OU.

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