



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOVE Center selects new Executive Director after thorough search

ST. GEORGE — After a rigorous nationwide search, DOVE Center has selected a new Executive Director to lead the nonprofit agency that serves and empowers survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence in Southern Utah.

Now, the Board of Directors at DOVE is pleased to announce that Jillian Penhale from Tampa, Florida, has been selected to take the role of executive director starting early September.

Board President Carole Grady said the Board of Directors is thrilled that Penhale has been selected for the role, adding that Penhale brings with her skills in nonprofit management — including fundraising, donor retention, strategic thinking, team leadership and capacity building.

“Her experience and skills coupled with her commitment to trauma-informed care, diversity, equity and inclusion, and relationship-building provide Jillian with a solid foundation to lead DOVE through its next phase of growth,” Grady said.

On behalf of the board and staff, Grady also thanked Madonna Melton — Operations and Shelter Director — for expanding her responsibilities to serve as interim executive director during the vacancy.

Penhale currently serves as Executive Director of Created Women — a nonprofit organization in Tampa, Florida, that’s committed to serving vulnerable women who are coming out of trafficking and exploitation.

“Throughout my career, my core passion has been working with organizations that serve people in need of exiting their current situation and finding healing and recovery as they move forward,” Penhale said.

What drove Penhale to apply for DOVE's executive director position was the organization's focus on creating an inclusive environment for all survivors, she said, as well as DOVE's emphasis on ensuring its programs and services provide physical and emotional safety for survivors.

"I was so impressed by the range of services DOVE currently offers to survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence," adding that she also enjoyed learning Southern Utah is a family-oriented community surrounded by beautiful scenery.

Once she starts her role as executive director, Penhale said she's looking forward to learning more from DOVE and Washington County about the needs for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

"I am hopeful that, together, we can create services that address needs like longer-term housing opportunities for survivors, and job opportunities to create stability as they move forward," she said.

To learn more about DOVE Center and the services it provides, visit dovecenter.org.

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About DOVE Center

DOVE Center is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is dedicated to providing shelter, advocacy and counseling to survivors of domestic abuse, dating violence, sexual assault, rape, sex trafficking and stalking in Washington and Kane counties.

To learn more, please visit dovecenter.org. or connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).