

# Holly HOWAT

## Interim Assistant Secretary, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH)

Holly Howat, Ph.D., was most recently the founder and former executive director of Beacon Community Connections, a social care nonprofit. Holly has had a long and varied career path, beginning her professional career as a speech-language therapist. Her work focuses on using collaboration, communication, and connections to develop cross-system policies, processes, and programs to improve outcomes for marginalized populations.

Holly previously worked as the first executive director of the Lafayette Parish Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee and, before that, as a project director at the Picard Center for Child Development and Lifelong Learning. She is the author of multiple community-focused grants that brought over \$7 million to South Louisiana.

Holly holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Texas at Austin, a

Master of Arts from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, and a Philosophical Doctorate from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She is also a graduate of Leadership Lafayette (2017) and of the 2023 Cohort of Leadership Louisiana. In 2020, Holly was honored as a Woman Who Means Business. Holly is passionate about lifelong learning and community collaboration.

Holly has been married for 20 years, and has a son and two stepchildren.