



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Former FCC Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate Joins CRI Board**

**Bloomington, Ind. and Nashville, Tenn.** – Centerstone Research Institute (CRI) today announced Deborah Taylor Tate has joined its Board of Directors. Tate will begin a three-year appointment, effective immediately, in which she will help guide the operations and policies of the organization and support its efforts to improve behavioral healthcare through pioneering research.

Tate has been closely involved with Centerstone for almost a decade and has served as Chairman of the Board of Centerstone of Tennessee. An attorney, Tate served as Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from 2006 to 2009. She is referred to by many as the “Children’s Commissioner,” and is a champion of mental health causes and a noted advocate for issues including telemedicine, child online safety, child obesity and the prevention of cyber bullying. Tate is a 2009 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day Laureate.

“Debi brings tremendous experience and energy to CRI,” said Dr. Dennis Morrison, CEO of CRI. “Her insight and leadership on mental health and information technology issues will be important as we work to fulfill our mission to advance knowledge of mental health and addiction disorders and discover innovative treatments.”

Prior to her FCC appointment, she was the Chairman of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority and served as senior policy advisor to former Tennessee Governors Lamar Alexander and Don Sundquist, specifically acting as a senior mental health and juvenile justice policy advisor. She was also instrumental in establishing a statewide Mental Health Revision Commission, which culminated in the passage of a new mental health law for Tennessee.

Tate co-founded the Renewal House, a recovery residence for women addicted to crack cocaine and their children, and served as a Director at Vanderbilt University’s Institute on Public Policy.

Tate serves on the National Boards of Common Sense Media and the Minority and Media Telecommunications Council and is a Distinguished Scholar at the Free State Foundation. Her local board leadership has included the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital, Family and Children’s Services, Junior League of Nashville, Martha O’Byran Center Foundation, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and Tennessee Voices for Children. She also is an Elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

## **About Centerstone Research Institute**

Centerstone Research Institute (CRI) is a unique not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving mental healthcare through research, information technology and clinical informatics. CRI conducts service and clinical studies and partners with leading research institutions to advance knowledge of mental health and addiction disorders and discover innovative treatments. The organization maintains an Institutional Review Board and manages the Knowledge Network, a technology-based, partner-driven alliance to facilitate the translation of research to practice. CRI also offers Behavioral Pathway Systems, a best practices benchmarking service. CRI is a recipient of the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare's *Innovation Award*. For more information about CRI, please visit [www.centerstoneresearch.org](http://www.centerstoneresearch.org).

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