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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Shari-Lee Ryan hired as Director of Laraway's Backpack Program**

Shari-Lee Ryan, MS, LCMHC, LADC, has been hired as Director of the Backpack Program at Laraway Youth & Family Services in Johnson, Vermont. She brings extensive experience in educational and therapeutic settings.

Ryan, a therapist in private practice, directed emergency services and served as a case manager at Northeast Kingdom Human Services. Most recently, she worked as a Behavior Therapist for the North Country Supervisory Union.

"Laraway provides support in creative and innovative ways that I am excited to be a part of," Ryan said. "I hope to continue with the direction of the Backpack Program and offer additional creative ideas to support the program, children, families and staff."

Ryan succeeds Sarah Squirrell who served as Backpack's inaugural director. Squirrell has been named Executive Director of the Vermont Cooperative for Practice Improvement and Innovation.

Laraway's Backpack Program provides comprehensive, strengths-based, individualized supports to children and youth K-12 in the public school setting. For more information, please visit [www.laraway.org](http://www.laraway.org).

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*Empowering Youth, Strengthening Families, Building Community*

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