Marielle DeFazio has been appointed as PathPoint’s first chief operations officer, effective April 1.

As the nonprofit’s first COO, DeFazio joins the executive team and will concentrate on advising and supporting divisional operations in each of the six PathPoint divisions located throughout Southern and Central California, including Behavioral Health Services.

DeFazio serves as state coordinator for Project SEARCH, and was previously vice president/director of operations of PathPoint’s Ventura and Los Angeles counties.

DeFazio joined PathPoint in 2005 and has years of nonprofit management, fiscal, evaluation, contracts, grant writing and organizational development experience in the areas of developmental disabilities, mental health, community development and youth empowerment. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from CSU Northridge and an associate of arts in liberal studies from Ventura College.

Founded in Santa Barbara, PathPoint provides support services that empower people with disabilities, economic disadvantages, and mental illness to live and work as valued members of their communities. It operates in Ventura, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Kern and Los Angeles counties. For more information, visit http://www.pathpoint.org.