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WAFCA Announces Leadership Transition, New Executive Director Kathy Markeland

Today the WAFCA Board of Directors announced the selection of Kathy Markeland to serve as Executive Director.

WAFCA is a member association that works to improve the lives of individuals, families and children in Wisconsin. WAFCA's member agencies provide a wide array of prevention and supportive services such as community-based mental health and substance abuse treatment, parent support and foster care. WAFCA represents over 50 child and family serving agencies and leaders in the field and advocates for the more than 250,000 individuals and families that they serve each year.

Since 2007, Markeland has been a key contributor to the WAFCA team serving as Senior Policy Analyst and, most recently, as Associate Director. Over her years with the organization she has helped advance the Association's profile as a key voice for the private human services sector in Wisconsin.

"Kathy is the right person to take WAFCA into the challenging future facing our sector. She has the policy and advocacy experience, as well as the resource development and partner engagement skills needed to help our members advance quality practice and respond to the changing needs of the communities we serve," stated Board Chair Kelli Kamholz.

The Board initiated the selection process for a new Executive Director earlier this spring when current Executive Director Linda A. Hall notified the Board of her intention to transition out of her leadership role to pursue new opportunities. Hall departs WAFCA following a stellar 25-year tenure, including more than a dozen years as the Association's leader. Earlier this week, Governor Evers announced the appointment of Hall to serve as Director of the Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health.

"We are grateful for the years of service of Linda Hall. Under her leadership WAFCA made great strides in advancing our core organizational goals - developing a stronger advocacy presence, forming high-quality human services leaders and creating a community of mission-driven organizations committed to delivering better outcomes for the people we serve. We congratulate Linda on her recent appointment and look forward to continuing to partner with her in her new role," continued Kamholz.

Markeland has more than 25 years of experience in member associations having served as an advocate for county government, faith-based organizations and private human services. Her experience includes more than a decade of leadership development and continuing education management - helping family serving professionals gain new skills and advance their knowledge of best practice. An effective communicator, Markeland has regularly represented the organization on the state and national level and managed

WAFCA's communication and messaging platforms. She holds a BA in Political Science and Behavioral Science and Law from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"WAFCA is an extraordinary association of leaders committed to helping all Wisconsin communities, families and individuals reach their full human potential," stated Markeland.

"It has been my honor to grow as a professional and a leader under the mentorship and guidance of Linda Hall and our amazing member executives. I am humbled by the opportunity to step into the Executive Director position and committed to continuing to amplify the voice of our members, who are doing amazing work in our communities - taking risks for the individuals, children and families they support and serving as champions for recovery and resilience in every corner of the state."

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