

For Immediate Release

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The Arc Eastern Connecticut Announces New Board Leadership

During its annual Founders Day celebration at Mohegan Park, The Arc Eastern Connecticut celebrated long-standing Board leaders and welcomed new voices committed to advancing the agency's mission of full inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Diane Aubin, The Arc ECT's Board President passed the gavel to Vice President Gene Michael Deary. Aubin's unwavering advocacy for people with IDD began with a scholarship from The Arc Quinebaug Valley to support her career in special education. Aubin later served terms on The Board of The Arc Quinebaug Valley and, after, on The Arc New London County Board of Directors. She retained her leadership position with The Arc ECT after The Arcs of Quinebaug and New London merged in 2019.

Deary, a board member since 2009 and Vice President of Berkshire Bank, is a longtime supporter of The Arc's fundraising events. Emily Morrison, a development professional with a history of leadership within The Arc as well, steps in as Vice President. Kelly Allard, a financial examiner for the State of Connecticut and longtime advocate for people with IDD, will serve as Treasurer. Attorney Ray Baribeault of Suisman Shapiro remains as Secretary, bringing legal expertise and civic engagement experience to the team.

The Board now includes returning members Rebecca Durham (Backus Hospital), Kelly McNamara (Norwich Public Schools), Abby Snyder (The Arc ECT), Donald Trella (Mohegan Sun), Shiela Hayes (Norwich City Council), Matt Herman (Law Office of Alan Scott Herman) and new additions Christopher Sandford (educator and fundraising professional) and David Saia (Chelsea Groton Bank). The Arc also recognized departing members Linda Rhodes and Shannon Aiello, a former Board President and 30-year Board member, for their dedicated service.

"We are grateful for our outgoing board members and thrilled to welcome a dynamic team of professionals and self-advocates who bring diverse perspectives and a shared commitment to our mission," said Kathleen Stauffer, CEO of The Arc Eastern Connecticut.

About The Arc Eastern Connecticut:

The Arc Eastern Connecticut is a nonprofit organization committed to promoting inclusion, independence, and quality of life for people with IDD through advocacy, education, and community-based services. To learn more, please visit TheArcECT.org.

Caption: The Arc Eastern Connecticut recently announced changes to its Board of Directors at their Founders Day celebration. L-R: Board member Kelly McNamara, exiting Board members Linda Rhodes and Shannon Aiello, Board members Donald Trella and Abby Snyder, and new Board President Gene Michael Deary.