

ADvancing States Announces Selection of New Board of Directors

September 5, 2023

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA – ADvancing States, the association representing state long-term services and supports agencies, is proud to announce its Board of Directors for 2023-2024. The Association's previous Vice-President, Nels Holmgren will assume the Board Presidency. Nels Holmgren is the Director of the Division of Aging and Adult Services at the State of Utah, which oversees programs mandated by the Older Americans Act to promote healthy and secure lifestyles for Utah's growing senior population. Working with local partners, the Area Agencies on Aging, and other interested parties in the Aging network, the Division provides critical services to empower Utah's seniors to remain independent in their own homes.

The prior President, Kathleen Dougherty, Chief of Managed Care Operations for the Division of Medicaid & Medical Assistance in Delaware, will become Immediate Past President. In addition to Mr. Holmgren, the executive officers on the ADvancing States Board are now: Vice President Bea Rector, Assistant Secretary, Aging and Long Term Support Administration, Department of Social & Health Services, Washington State; Secretary Ursel McElroy, Director, Department of Aging, Ohio; and Treasurer Bonnie Silva, Director, Department of Office of Community Living, Colorado.

ADvancing States is also pleased to announce new at-large members on the Board of Directors: Elizabeth Chen, Secretary, Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Massachusetts; Victoria L. Elridge, Commissioner, Department for Aging and Independent Living, Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Kentucky; Jakenna L. Lebsack, Assistant Director, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, Arizona; David Ward, Sr. Director of Long Term Services and Supports, Health Care Authority, Oklahoma. The new at-large members join existing members-at large: Jessica Bax, Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Missouri, and Susan DeMarois, Director, Department of Aging, California.

These distinguished state leaders will provide strong leadership and assistance to their colleagues across the country and to ADvancing States.

About ADvancing States

ADvancing States was founded in 1964 under the name National Association of State Units on Aging. In 2019, the association changed its name to ADvancing States. Today, ADvancing States represents the nation's 56 state and territorial agencies on aging and disabilities and long-term services and supports directors. ADvancing States supports visionary leadership, the advancement of systems innovation and the articulation of national policies that support long-term services and supports for older adults and people with disabilities and their caregivers.