

June 8, 2017

An Open Letter from PTI Board President Bill Keller

Dear Pathways Members, Families, and Friends,

It is with excitement and great pleasure that I announce Pathways to Independence has a new Executive Director. Following an extensive search, Jodi Woessner has agreed to become our Executive Director.

The search for someone to continue leading the great work done everyday at Pathways began in mid March and culminated in the selection and addition of Jodi to lead our Pathways Team. Jodi indicated that she is *“extremely grateful for the opportunity to lead Pathways to Independence. It is an organization with a strong mission that impacts the lives of people with disabilities every day. I have joined a team of incredibly talent individuals that provide high quality services to all of our participants and have done a tremendous job of keep things going during this time of transition.”*

Before I introduce you all to Jodi, I must first recognize the unique group of Team members who have continued making each event and activity go on without ever missing a beat. Thanks to Rose, Jessie, Jamie, Sheena, Beth, and Beth, Ray and Cameron, everything went on just as smoothly and normally as ever. The effort each of you delivered over the last couple of months is so very appreciated. You are the BEST! Thank you.

Now that the search is complete. Let me have Jodi tell you a little bit about herself.

“I am a native of Minnesota and spent the first 20 years of my life growing up in this wonderful, all but cold, state! It is also where I began to find my passion and began the journey of becoming a lifelong advocate for people with disabilities. After graduating from the University of Minnesota, Morris with a B.A. in Psychology I started my career as a direct support professional assisting adults with developmental disabilities living in the community. After moving to St. Louis in 1994 I began working for the Department of Mental Health spending 6 years working as a Case Manager with the St. Louis Regional Center. In 2004 I decided to make the move to the non-profit field and have never looked back. I joined The Belle Center first as Program Director, then as Executive Director and finally as the Vice President of Belle Children’s Services and Family Support after the merger with the St. Louis Arc in 2012. Prior to joining Pathways to Independence, I was the Chief Development Officer for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri. I currently serve as a member of the Program Advisory Committee for the Deaconess Foundation having just started my second term with the foundation. I am also a wife and mom to two teenagers and a sister of a person with a disability. As you can see my path in life has been clear, working with people with

disabilities has been my life's work and I am happy to write the next chapter leading Pathways to Independence."

Please join me in welcoming Jodi Woessner to the Pathways Family. Needless to say, Jodi is no stranger to the community we serve. And very soon she will not be a stranger to the Pathways Community.

Sincerely,

Bill

Bill Keller
Board President
Pathways to Independence