

**National Association of State  
Directors of Developmental  
Disabilities Services, Inc.**



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NASDDDS  
113 Oronoco Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Tel: 703-683-4202  
Fax: 703-683-8773 or 703-684-1395

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## **Thaler Named New NASDDDS Executive Director**

The Board of Directors of the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services has named Nancy Thaler to replace Bob Gettings as the Association's Executive Director. A member of the Association's Board of Directors from 1995 to 2003 and President of the Board from 1999-2001, Ms. Thaler will assume her new duties as chief executive officer of the organization on March 1.

For nearly eleven years, Ms. Thaler served as Deputy Secretary for Mental Retardation in the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. Major strides were made in downsizing and closing large, state-operated centers and expanding home and community-based services during her 16-year tenure with the department (including six years as director of the Office of Mental Retardation's Bureau of Community Services).

Commenting on the appointment, NASDDDS President Stan Butkus said, "Nancy Thaler is one of the most dedicated and creative public servants I've had the pleasure to work with during my nearly forty years in the field of disability services. She's a passionate advocate and a skillful manager with an instinct for motivating others to act. I can't conceive of anyone who is better equipped to assume the reins of Association leadership upon Bob Gettings' retirement."

Ms. Thaler began her career as a houseparent in a group home for children with developmental disabilities and later served in a variety of administrative capacities with a non-profit service agency in Southeastern Pennsylvania. After leaving

Pennsylvania State Government in 2003, she served for two years as the Director of Quality Improvement Strategies with the Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). In this capacity, she played a crucial role in the development of a new Medicaid home and community-based waiver application process and in articulating the components of a comprehensive statewide quality management system for home and community-based services.

Ms Thaler, who has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Villanova University, currently is a Vice President of Liberty Healthcare Corporation, a contract medical management firm that specializes in designing, staffing and managing a wide range of health, behavioral health, and habilitation programs. A native of Pennsylvania, she currently resides with her husband, Karl, in Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Gettings announced his retirement plans early last year after directing the Association's activities for nearly 36 years. He will assist Ms. Thaler during a four-month transition period to ensure the continuity of organizational activities, retiring on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

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