

NASDDDS Welcomes New Committee Members and Committee Leadership

4/8/2024

Press Contact:
Carrie McGraw
cmcgraw@nasddds.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALEXANDRIA, VA — The National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) is pleased to announce the appointment of four new committee members and a new committee chair to support the association. Director Kelly Crosbie from North Carolina (NC), Commissioner Michele Heydon from Kansas (KS), and Director Jody Roberts from Delaware (DE) were recently appointed to the NASDDDS Research Committee. Associate Director Elizabeth Hopkins, serving Maine (ME), was appointed to the National Policy Workgroup. Current member of the Research Committee, Director Andrew Reese (DC), was appointed chair of that committee in March.

Kelly Crosbie, MSW, LCSW (NC) is the director of the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services in North Carolina. Director Crosbie is a licensed clinical social worker who has supported people with mental illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual/developmental disabilities her entire adult life. She began volunteering in the community with individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities in high school, and she started her career as a mental health clinician serving children in foster care and juvenile justice settings as well as adults and children with co-occurring conditions.

Crosbie has worked for multiple non-profit organizations that support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a range of capacities, from development officer to chief strategy officer to chief operating officer. In each setting, her work was dedicated to promoting greater self-determination and equity. From 2008-2012 she was the assistant director for behavioral health and intellectual and developmental disabilities services at North Carolina Medicaid, where she oversaw benefits such as the Innovations Waiver before being named the State's Medicaid chief operating officer in 2013. Most recently, Crosbie served as the chief quality officer for the Division of Health Benefits (formerly NC Medicaid). In that role, she oversaw all quality programs aimed at improving health outcomes and promoting health equity. She also directed all care management programs, including tailored care management, which is designed to provide comprehensive whole-person care management support for members with mental illness, substance use disorder, and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Michele Heydon (KS) currently serves as the long-term services and supports (LTSS) commissioner in Kansas. She began her role in Kansas state government in 2017 as the brain injury and technology assisted waiver program manager and moved into her most recent role of home and community-based services (HCBS) director in November 2018. Commissioner Heydon has an extensive 30-year background in HCBS serving persons with disabilities. From 2013 to 2016, she was the manager of case management and served as the intellectual/developmental disabilities health plan expert for Sunflower Health Plan. In that role, she promoted compliance with federal, state, and contractual agreements; managed and provided training to regional staff; coordinated ongoing communication with contracted providers; and managed waiver and medical services for members in the region. For 11 years prior to her work at Sunflower, Heydon served as director of targeted case management at Sunflower Supports, a Topeka company that provides day services and residential support to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Jody A. Roberts, Ph.D. (DE), is the director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS) in the Department of Health and Social Services for the State of Delaware. Roberts joined DDDS in 2020 as the director of external relations and strategic partnerships, a new role focused on building and strengthening connections that enhance the capacity to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community. Prior to joining the State of Delaware, Roberts worked for more than a dozen years in the nonprofit sector where he led a research institute focused on fostering critical participation and engagement in matters related to science, technology, and innovation policy. In that role, he led a diverse array of collaborative research programs that shared a common goal of making sense of the past to build better futures. Roberts has served on advisory and review boards for several research programs including the National Science Foundation, North Carolina State University, and Washington College. Currently, he serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for Art-Reach, an organization dedicated to removing barriers to arts and culture organizations promoting accessibility in the arts as well as serving on the Family Advisory Council for the Cerebral Palsy Program at Nemours Children's Hospital.

Andrew Reese (DC) was appointed director of the Department on Disability Services (DDS) on September 2, 2016. A licensed clinical social worker and attorney admitted to the bar in the District of Columbia and Maryland, Mr. Reese previously served as the deputy director for the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). In that role, he was responsible for developing and directing a comprehensive program to assist people with disabilities in achieving self-sufficiency and independence by securing, maintaining, and advancing in employment opportunities.

Mr. Reese joined DDS in 2011 as deputy general counsel and represented RSA on matters of legal sufficiency; development of regulations and policies; and, negotiation of memoranda of understanding with other District agencies. He previously served as deputy attorney general for the Family Services Division of the Office of the Attorney General, responsible for the Domestic Violence, Mental Health, and Child Protection Litigation sections. Mr. Reese has worked in both the public and nonprofit sectors, serving 10 years as a clinical instructor on the faculty of the Schools of Law and Social Work at the University of Maryland at Baltimore and operating a private practice in the District of Columbia, representing parents and acting as a guardian ad litem for children in the foster care system. While on the faculty of the University of Maryland, Mr. Reese also served as chairman of the AIDS Legislative Committee, a disability advocacy organization.

Director Crosbie, Commissioner Heydon, and Director Roberts were appointed to the **NASDDDS Research Committee** which consists of a subgroup of NASDDDS directors and executive level staff along with non-association members acting in ex officio roles who are subject matter experts in data driven research within the I/DD field. Joining the group is a select process. The group meets at least quarterly to review best practices; field advancements; and make recommendations for needed areas of focus in I/DD research both for NASDDDS projects and the larger I/DD community. We welcome and appreciate the outgoing leadership of the immediate past president, Mary Brogan, administrator of the Developmental Disabilities Division in Hawaii and look forward to the leadership of the newly appointed president, Andrew Reese.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Hopkins (ME) currently serves as the associate director for developmental disability and brain injury services in Maine. The associate director provides leadership and oversight of the state's intellectual, developmental and brain injury programs. Associate Director Hopkins has extensive knowledge and experience regarding services for people with disabilities, both in Maine and nationally. Hopkins was a regional supervisor in Maine's developmental services system in the early 2000s before moving to the Department of Labor, where she served multiple roles, including as the director of vocational rehabilitation services. Most recently, she has provided technical assistance on employment and disability to vocational rehabilitation agencies around the country through the National Disability Institute, in her role with the Workforce Innovation and Technical Assistance Center (WINTAC).

Associate Director Hopkins was appointed to the **National Policy Workgroup (NPWG)**. NASDDDS maintains the National Policy Work Group (NPWG) as an advisory body which is comprised of a chairperson and eight member state directors of intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) services. This work group assists the Board of Directors and staff in formulating association positions on national policy issues of significance to state I/DD agencies. The work group meets in conjunction with membership meetings and convenes virtually on a bimonthly basis.

"We are extraordinarily pleased to welcome Kelly, Michele, Jody, and Betsy to our committees and Andy into a leadership role with the association," said NASDDDS Executive Director, Mary Sowers. "We remain grateful for their willingness to support the association and we look forward to working alongside them in service to our members."

###

The National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) represents the nation's I/DD agencies in 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico providing services to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. NASDDDS promotes visionary leadership, systems innovation, and the development of national policies that support home and community-based services for individuals with disabilities and their families. Find out more at [THIS LINK](#).