

January 3, 2020

Via of the Lehigh Valley CEO Transition

BETHLEHEM, PA – The Via of the Lehigh Valley Board of Directors announced the appointment of Lisa (Hoffman) Walkiewicz as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) effective December 15, 2019. Mary Joy Kaiser, the current President is resigning after nine years of service. Walkiewicz currently serves as Via’s Executive Director.

Kaiser joined Via as President/CEO in 2010. Under her leadership, the Via team has grown annual revenues and expanded its geographic footprint from primarily serving Lehigh and Northampton to now covering Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Bucks and Berks counties. Important new services have been added including autism services, employment services for high school students, expanded clinical services and inclusive early education. This increase in geographic scope and services has resulted in services to more than 1,200 annually.



Board Chair Jerry Somers expressed the gratitude of the entire Via family for Kaiser’s contributions, stating, “Via has grown tremendously under Mary Joy’s leadership, dedication and creativity. We are grateful for all she has done to help people reach their full potential and for the team she has put in place to lead Via into the future.”

Somers noted that Via is fortunate to have an accomplished professional in Lisa Walkiewicz ready and able to assume the CEO position. Walkiewicz has been with Via for 13 years and has been an integral part of Via’s growth over the past decade. She has served as Vice President of Communications, Chief Operating Officer and, since 2018, Executive Director.

Somers said, “Lisa is well respected by the board, staff, participants, funders, donors and stakeholders. Her enthusiasm, attention to detail and focus on growth and accountability make her a strong leader to take Via into the future.”

Walkiewicz earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism in 1997 from the Pennsylvania State University’s College of Communications, accredited by Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Communications. Her journalism degree focused on communications, public relations, graphic design and photography, with a minor in history studies. Through the Pennsylvania State University, Walkiewicz is a member of the Parmi Nous Honor Society, Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society, Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society and Golden Key Honor Society

While attending Penn State, Walkiewicz was involved in the overall committee for Dance Marathon, the largest student run philanthropy in the world, serving as the Overall Marketing Chairperson in 1997. Additionally, she was involved in the planning of Penn State Homecoming in 1996 and 1997 and designed the 1997 Homecoming logo. While at Penn State, Walkiewicz wrote for the Daily Collegian, Town and Gown Magazine, and several other State College and central PA publications. Walkiewicz is



one of eight in her immediate family who attended the Pennsylvania State University and is a third generation Nittany Lion.

Walkiewicz was a selected Fulbright Scholar but opted to serve in the United States Peace Corps in Cameroon and Chad after completing her undergraduate education.

The Peace Corps is a service opportunity for motivated changemakers to immerse themselves in a community abroad, working side by side with local leaders to tackle the most pressing challenges of our generation. Walkiewicz was an English teacher and community health professional. While in the Peace Corps, she organized vaccination drives, conducted pre-natal consultations, taught AIDS awareness and trained health care professionals, and taught English as a second language.

She also holds a Certificate of Non-Profit Management from La Salle University and attended the Harvard Kennedy School of Business for Performance Measurement for Effective Management of Nonprofit Organizations.

Walkiewicz lives in Macungie, Pennsylvania with her husband, Michael, and their two children, Samantha and Emma.

We all want the same things from life; a great job in a great community and plenty of friends with whom we share the experience. For people with disabilities, these life goals can be challenging. Via works every day to help people achieve this reality.

Serving our community since 1952, the dedicated and committed care providers at Via work to help children overcome developmental delays, help young adults find meaningful and sustainable jobs, and provide the resources and opportunities so people with disabilities may lead active and enjoyable lives right in their own community. Visit www.ViaNet.org to learn more about Via’s services.

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