



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NJCDD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEVIN CASEY TO RETIRE IN 2018

At the start of the new year, Kevin T. Casey, Executive Director for the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD), announced his plans for retirement in 2018. Casey, who has served as the Council's director since the spring of 2015, may step down from his position as early as May 1, 2018. However, he has expressed a readiness to remain beyond that date, if necessary, to ensure an ideal replacement is in place before his departure.

The NJCDD's executive committee will lead the Council as it undertakes an extensive search to identify and recruit a worthy successor to Mr. Casey, and one who will continue the initiatives that he has successfully pursued as Executive Director.

Kevin Casey joined the Council in March of 2015 after more than 11 years leading Illinois and Pennsylvania state divisions that oversee services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Previously, he led nonprofit organizations that provided services for people with developmental disabilities, including serving for 15 years as the director of Pennsylvania Protection & Advocacy, Inc. Casey began his career teaching and providing direct service for teens with both mental illness and intellectual disabilities.

In his role as the Council's executive director, Mr. Casey played a pivotal role in guiding the Council as it drafted its Five-Year Plan for 2017-2021. In addition, Casey worked to position the NJCDD as a leading state voice in the push for increased wages for Direct Support Professionals as well as the national fight to preserve and protect Medicaid funding for individuals with developmental disabilities. With a sharp focus on public policy, Mr. Casey encouraged strong and assertive advocacy by parents and individuals with I/DD, empowering them to speak out at meetings with legislators, state agency leaders, and other policymakers. He also worked to bring together diverse groups of family and self-advocates to share insights and collaborate on advocacy efforts, and to set a comprehensive agenda for New Jersey's developmental disabilities advocacy community at the start of new administrations in both Trenton and Washington, DC.

"Serving as the Executive Director of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities has been one of the highlights of my professional career," says Casey. "I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with families, self-advocates, and professionals on issues that are critical to people with disabilities. I thank the Council and the staff for their help, motivation, and dedication. I wish the Council the best in the future, and strongly urge the Council to remain vigorous and determined in their advocacy."

"On behalf of the NJCDD, I extend Kevin great personal thanks for his tireless and dedicated leadership and advocacy on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families," said Paul Blaustein, Council chairperson. "The Council will always be grateful for the opportunity to work with and learn from Kevin, and we extend our very best wishes to him and his family during his well-earned retirement."

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