



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARRM Announces Newly Elected Officers

EAGAN, MN — ARRM is excited to announce the election of new officers to guide the association's membership and advance its mission to advocate for, inform, and support Minnesota organizations serving people in the disability and mental health communities.

Rita Wiersma, Chief Executive Officer of Accord and a well-respected leader in disability services both in Minnesota and at the national level, has been elected President of the ARRM Board of Directors. Wiersma brings over 20 years of leadership experience in the disability services space to the role, and also currently serves as the President of the national ANCOR Foundation.

In addition, the ARRM Board of Directors also elected other officers to lead the association:

- Tom Gillespie, President & CEO at Living Well Disability Services, was elected to the role of Vice President.
- Danielle Fox, Executive Director at Mount Olivet Rolling Acres, was elected to the role of Treasurer.
- Lisa Thelen, Executive Director at REM Minnesota, was elected to the role of Secretary.

Anna Hegland, Senior Director at Dungarvin, has transitioned to the role of Immediate Past President.

"We're thrilled to recognize our new leadership team," said ARRM's CEO Sue Schettle. "Rita, Tom, Danielle, and Lisa each bring valuable expertise, insight, and a deep commitment to Minnesota's home and community-based services industry. The HCBS landscape continues to evolve, and we're fortunate to have leaders like these to guide ARRM's work. I look forward to working alongside this talented group as we continue to support and advocate for our members."

The new officers will lead the 19-member Board of Directors, which is tasked with overseeing the strategic mission and business affairs of the association. The ARRM Board of Directors is

an all-volunteer group that hails from across the state and brings decades of experience in the human services sector. In addition, the election comes at a pivotal time for Minnesota's home and community-based services system as providers navigate workforce shortages, evolving Medicaid policy, increasing demand for services, and a rapidly changing healthcare landscape. As President of ARRM, Wiersma will help lead the association's advocacy efforts on behalf of organizations that support thousands of Minnesotans with disabilities to live, work, and thrive in their communities.

"I am honored by the trust my colleagues have placed in me," said Wiersma. "Minnesota has long been a national leader in supporting people with disabilities to live full, meaningful lives in their communities. I look forward to working alongside ARRM's members, policymakers, and partners to strengthen that legacy, advocate for sustainable services, and ensure providers have the support they need to continue delivering high-quality care."

About ARRM

ARRM is a nonprofit association of nearly 200 provider organizations, businesses and advocates dedicated to leading the advancement of home and community-based services supporting people living with disabilities in their pursuit of meaningful lives. Founded in 1970, ARRM continues to lead advocacy and training for positive industry reforms that support Minnesotans with disabilities through supporting community inclusion and representing home and community-based services providers.

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