

Linda Burghardt – Biographical Sketch

Linda Burghardt, a resident of Okemos, is the incoming Executive Director of the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan. She will assume the leadership role of the Association upon the departure of Mary Ablan, who will retire on March 31, 2017.

Linda's career in Michigan began with a 17-year stint with the Michigan State Senate, first as a policy analyst with the Senate Analysis Section where she wrote over 3,000 analyses on a wide variety of topics, including aging and senior services issues. She then made the move to fiscal analyst with the Senate Fiscal Agency where she covered the Regulatory budget (Departments of Commerce, Labor, and Licensing and Regulation) and wrote a 46-page manual on the appropriations process.

Her next career move was to the private sector where she was a Manager/Senior Underwriter for Zurich North America, Specialties, Environmental Division. She spearheaded a team that established a branch office in East Lansing to handle underground storage tank insurance policies for the country. After corporate restructuring closed the office, Linda became the Governmental Relations Director for the National Association of Social Workers, Michigan Chapter (NASW Michigan), where she led the organization's efforts to obtain state licensure for social workers and staffed the Chapter's Aging Special Interest Group.

Seeking a more direct advocacy position after almost nine years with NASW Michigan, Linda accepted the position of Executive Director of the Michigan office of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Michigan) where she led the organization in its efforts to be chartered by its national office and served on a number of committees and coalitions including the State's Advisory Committee on Mental Illness (later the Behavioral Health Advisory Council), the Service Array and Provider Network task group of the Dual Eligibles Project, and various ad hoc advocacy community groups concerned with the Dual Eligibles Project and implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Linda's new position with AAAM will allow her to continue to broaden and deepen her involvement with aging issues and advocate for effective programs and services and the funding necessary to help seniors live healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives.

Linda has a Bachelor's degree in Government from Cornell University and a Master's degree in Public Administration (MPA) from Michigan State University. She also obtained credentialing as a Certified Association Executive from the CAE Commission, a semi-independent certifying body of the American Society of Association Executives.

Linda is a native of Washington, DC, and lived in many locations before settling in Michigan in 1979.

Linda can be reached on her cell phone (517-420-3706) or through e-mail (LBurghardt@comcast.net).