



Communities for People

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PRESS RELEASE: For immediate release

COMMUNITIES FOR PEOPLE, INC. ANNOUNCES CEO'S RETIREMENT, ELECTS 2ND CEO

BOSTON, MA; PROVIDENCE, R.I.- September 15, 2022- Communities for People, Inc., (CFP), a nonprofit leader in community-based foster care in Massachusetts and Rhode Island since 1976, has announced that Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Joseph M. Leavey is retiring after 45 years. Joe will remain with the organization in the role as Strategic Consultant. Former Communities for People's Chief Operating Officer, Craig Gordon, has been named Leavey's successor as CEO.

"The transition with Communities for People is bittersweet, but it is the right time to pass the torch to spend more time with family. I have complete faith in our former COO and newly elected CEO, Craig Gordon," said Joe. "Craig is a proven and respected leader who has been passionate about our work through his relentless commitment to youth, families and community."

During Joe's legacy, he has built an organization that has impacted over 15,000 youth and families across MA and RI to date. "It has been my honor and privilege to serve this great organization. I am proud of the people of CFP and the lives we are impacting. What won't change in this organization is our commitment to provide high quality services to youth and families in need," said Joe.

Craig Gordon, who first joined CFP as a direct care counselor in 1979 became COO in July 2015. He now will retain the title of President as he assumes the CEO role. Previously, he had multiple management and senior leadership positions within CFP, and extensive involvement with advocacy organizations promoting systemic support and enhancement of child welfare, children's behavioral health and juvenile justice systems. A graduate of Brandeis University in Waltham, MA, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Political Science, Craig has been instrumental in several senior roles in CFP's building the community-based child welfare system in Rhode Island.

"I am both excited and honored to lead CFP into the future and our next phase of development," said Craig. "While I anticipate new challenges and new services, CFP will remain firmly grounded in its roots and culture of providing individualized, high-quality support to youth and families facing extraordinary challenges. Our staff

and programs always recognize and respect the many traumas our youth and families face as they become involved in and navigate the child welfare system. We remain committed to supporting the youth and families in need in Massachusetts and Rhode Island in their pursuit to become active, healthy members in our communities."

CFP Chairman of the Board, Boyce Slayman states, "Joe Leavey is a leader and has been a champion of foster care since I've had the distinct pleasure of working with him over 25 years. He has been a mentor and a friend to me and countless others in the nonprofit industry. As CFP continues to grow to address the needs of youth and families, I have no doubt that with Craig Gordon at the helm and Joe Leavey as a guiding light, our organization will continue to thrive."

Since its founding in 1976 by Joseph M. Leavey, Communities for People, (CFP), has remained a pioneer in community-based approaches to support children, youth and families in the state foster care system. CFP offers a wide range of impactful programs and services in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, including family support and preservation, treatment foster care and adoption support, and a variety of small residential and independent living programs for teens. CFP focuses on achieving permanency, making lifelong connections within the community, and developing independent living skills.

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