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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**New Hope CEO Appointed to Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council**

*Debra McGinness was selected by Senate Minority Leader Robert G. Ort*

**Albany, N.Y.** — [New Hope Community](#), an organization in Sullivan County that provides services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), is pleased to announce its Chief Executive Officer has been appointed to New York State's Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council (DDAC).



As the head of a \$50 million non-profit voluntary provider agency, Debra McGinness has demonstrated tremendous leadership in guiding strategic growth, driving holistic support for the workforce, advancing community partnerships, advocating for greater social capital for all people with I/DD and creating opportunities for this population.

McGinness has spent her entire career being of service to others from her early years as a registered nurse for medically fragile children at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), to opening her own direct support professional (DSP) staffing agency, founding a licensed home care service agency to founding the non-profit Select Human Services, Inc., which became a division of New

Hope Community.

Since taking the helm at New Hope Community, McGinness has established the organization as a clinical site for SUNY Sullivan's nursing students, launched a DSP apprenticeship certification program in collaboration with the New York State Department of Labor and SUNY Sullivan, created a one-acre sensory garden on New Hope's main campus and implemented telemedicine funded by a state grant throughout New Hope's 38 Sullivan County residential programs.

McGinness joins self-advocates, family members, provider representatives and other stakeholders on the DDAC who are tasked with assisting the Office for People with

Developmental Disabilities. The group meets quarterly to provide recommendations for statewide priorities and goals, comprehensive planning, resource allocation and evaluation processes for state and local services for people with developmental disabilities.

“I am honored to have been appointed and ultimately confirmed by the governor’s office and OPWDD Commissioner Kerri Neifeld to serve on the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council,” said McGinness. “I remain relentlessly committed to enhancing the lives of all people with I/DD, changing how society looks at people with I/DD and reimagining a world filled with opportunities for them.”

Learn more about the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council [here](#).

**About New Hope Community:**

New Hope Community is a not-for-profit human services organization providing supports for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Established in 1975 to serve as a nurturing and caring alternative to large institutions which were found to have violated the most basic human rights and conditions, New Hope Community has become recognized as a leading provider in the human services field. In January 2020, New Hope Community merged with Select Human Services, Inc. (SHS) of Pleasantville, NY, a not-for-profit voluntary agency providing services in Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland Counties. New Hope Community’s breadth of services includes clinical and nursing care, residential services, day programming, community habilitation, self-direction, support brokers, service navigators, education, recreation and leisure activities, a robust supported employment program, summer programs for youths, and so much more. New Hope Community has always maintained a person-centered approach toward enhancing the lives of people with disabilities and actively advocates for individual choice in a person’s efforts to live, work and participate fully in his or her community. New Hope Community and SHS, combined, provide services to over 700 people and employ more than 1,000 staff.

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