

The Board of Directors of Channel Marker, Inc., together with the Channel Marker Foundation, is pleased to announce the appointment of Cathy Cassell as the organization's Executive Director. Channel Marker is a non-profit agency dedicated to the wellness of individuals diagnosed with mental illness.

"Cathy has been a leader in the organization for many, many years and has the unanimous support of the Board. Her appointment is part of a succession plan developed by the Board of Directors and Executive Director Debbye Jackson several years ago," said John McQuaid, President of the Board. "Cathy's understanding of the service delivery system, strong relationships within the statewide advocacy network, and passion for our clients and the agency will facilitate a smooth transition."

"Cathy was, and is an integral part of the team that helped to grow the organization to where it is today. It is only fitting that she continue the legacy of compassion and care for those whom the organization serves," says Tolbert Rowe, Executive Director of Channel Marker Foundation. "Her institutional knowledge will be a perfect fit to guide the organization through the challenges the future of mental health care will face."

"The opportunity to lead Channel Marker is very exciting to me; this agency has been my life's work and passion and Debbye Jackson taught me so much during my 29 years with the organization," Cassell said. "I can't think of a more critical time in my career when mental health and wellness have become so important. We have a strong team, and I believe that together we can lead the agency through the next challenges and opportunities presented in our profession."

Cassell replaces long-time former Executive Director Debbye Jackson who passed away in June after a courageous battle with cancer.

Cassell, LCSW-C, began her relationship with Channel Marker in 1991. Since 2002, Cassell has served as Program Director for the agency, during which she was responsible for the development and clinical oversight of all behavioral health programming components. She has been instrumental in taking a lead role as the organization earned national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, implementation of an electronic health record and data sources to enhance outcome-driven service delivery, and with developing community partners to improve behavioral health integration with physical health care.

Cassell recently completed a four-year term as a member of the Board of Directors for Community Behavioral Health Association of Maryland (CBH) and served on the Executive Committee for CBH. She is a graduate of Shore Leadership class of 2011 as well as Shore Leadership 2.0, where she also serves on the program committee and was a previous member of the Shore Leadership Executive Committee from 2011–2017.

Cassell received her BA in Psychology from Salisbury University and her MSW from the University of Maryland. She is a lifelong resident of Talbot County and lives in Easton with her husband Marty Cassell and their four sons.

Founded in 1982, Channel Marker provides mental health and wellness support for adults and youth with severe mental illness in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot counties. Through a wide range of on-site, residential, and community-based services specifically tailored to the needs of each client, more than 55 clinical and mental health services staff serve an average of 400 clients each year.