



STATE OF WISCONSIN
BOARD ON AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE

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Kim Marheine

For immediate release

BOALTC Names Kim Marheine State Ombudsman

The State of Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long Term Care (BOALTC) is pleased to announce Kim Marheine has been selected to serve as our State Long Term Care Ombudsman. Marheine, who currently serves as the Ombudsman Services Supervisor, assumes responsibilities on September 25, 2023.

The State Ombudsman was previously a joint position with the Executive Director. Given the complexity of the work and growing older population, a dedicated full-time State Ombudsman became a necessity. We are grateful to the legislature and Governor Evers for recognizing this need and approving the State Ombudsman position in the 23-25 budget.

Marheine has worked in aging and long-term care for more than 30 years, including employment as a long-term care provider as well as a Program Director for the Alzheimer's Association of Greater WI. In 2008, Kim became the Ombudsman Services Supervisor where she has supported the ombudsman program staff, while also serving on statewide and national committees examining opportunities for issue advocacy to impact long-term systems changes. Marheine holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Therapy and a Master's degree in Community/Agency Counseling, both from UW-Oshkosh, where she also taught in the Music Therapy Division and mentored aspiring music therapists for several years.

"We are honored to have Kim Marheine serve as the State Ombudsman for Wisconsin", says Executive Director Jessica Trudell. "Kim's experience and comprehensive knowledge of the long-term care system makes her a great fit for this role and will enhance the agency's ability to advocate for older adults in Wisconsin and promote positive systemic change." Board Chair Abigail Lowery also expressed excitement that Kim is taking on increased leadership in the organization, stating "With Kim's breadth and depth of experience, knowledge, and compassion, the older adults of this state will benefit greatly."

"I am humbled and honored to serve Wisconsin and BOALTC in such a meaningful way. I succeed distinguished advocates George Potaracke, the late Heather Bruemmer, and current Executive Director Jessica Trudell, and will serve with the same dignity and respect for our clients in furtherance of the mission of Board on Aging and Long Term Care," said Marheine.

The mission of the Board on Aging and Long Term Care is to advocate for the interests of the state's long-term care consumers, to inform those consumers of their rights, and to educate the public at large about health care systems, insurance and long-term care. The Board operates the Ombudsman Program, Volunteer Ombudsman Program and the Medigap Helpline Program.