



Main Story 11.18.08

Unity House Names Elizabeth A. Werner New Executive Director



Unity House Deputy Exec. Dir.
Elizabeth Werner

AUBURN – The Board of Directors of Unity House of Cayuga County Inc. (Unity House) has chosen Unity House Deputy Executive Director Elizabeth A. Werner to succeed Joyce Williams as the agency’s new executive director, effective April 3, 2009.

In announcing the Board’s decision elevating Werner to the agency’s chief executive position on that date, Unity House Board President and executive director search committee chairperson Karen Merritt said, “We are very, very pleased to announce our unanimous decision to have Liz Werner become Unity House’s fifth executive director. Her 12-plus years of experience at Unity House have encompassed every aspect of the agency’s mission and its superior services and programs. That extensive experience, her achievements as a manager and executive, her deep compassion for the consumers and families Unity House cares for, and her commitment to Unity House’s purpose and future made her an obvious and ideal choice among the many qualified professionals who also applied for and sought the job of executive director at Unity House.”

Werner will officially assume overall leadership of the 300-employee, \$12-million a year organization when Williams’ resignation ending her 20 year tenure at Unity House, including the past 11-plus years as executive director, takes effect April 3, 2009. Between February 1, 2009 and then, per the Board of Directors’ and executive director search committee’s stated succession plan, Werner will be further oriented to her new position by Williams and senior management staff in the agency.

A native of Long Island, recipient of a BS degree in Health Administration from Keuka College and MS degree in Health Services Management Policy from the Robert Milano Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy, and a long-time resident of the Town of Owasco, Werner said she looks forward to adding to the accomplishments the agency has had under Williams’ stewardship.

“I am very honored to have been chosen by the Board of Directors to be Unity House’s next executive director and to have the opportunity to maintain and add to the success our services and programs enjoyed under Joyce’s steady hand ,” said Werner, whose previous work at Unity House included job coaching in the agency’s Employment Services, case management in its MRDD Residential Services, and quality assurance (as a specialist and department director) oversight of all services and programs, in addition to her current, nine-plus year stint (October 1999 to present) as deputy executive director.

“I am very grateful to have the chance to work with the agency’s outstanding and dedicated staffs in meeting the challenges we are sure to face, on behalf of our consumers, their families, and the communities we live and work in.”

Unity House provides transitional and permanent housing, rehabilitative, and employment services in six central New York counties to more than 700 individuals a day with developmental disabilities, mental health illnesses, and those recovering from chemical dependencies.