

For Immediate Release

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Disability Rights Wisconsin Announces Executive Director

Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW) Board of Directors is excited to announce that Jill Jacklitz will become its next Executive Director, effective August 22, 2023.

Jill comes to DRW from the UW-Madison Center for Patient Partnerships, where she served as Co-Director and Director of Education, leading the organization's strategic direction, health equity, educational and advocacy programming. She holds a Master of Science in Social Work from UW-Madison and has worked in child advocacy and community health as a lobbyist, community engagement educator and organizational leader in non-profit and health care organizations.

Jill's personal experience as an advocate for members of her own family give her particular insight into the same systems DRW strives to make more inclusive for people in Wisconsin with disabilities.

"As Executive Director, Jill will champion the critical work of DRW, fighting for the rights of people with disabilities and serving as the civic image for DRW while inspiring operational vision and oversight. She will build our organization's strength and financial viability while cultivating strong partnerships to move initiatives forward and developing relationships to expand DRW's storied history of system advocacy," stated DRW Board President Nancy Heltemes.

Jill begins her DRW journey on August 22, 2023. The community can reach out to her at executivedirector@drwi.org.

Disability Rights Wisconsin is the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy system for the state, charged with protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and keeping them free from abuse and neglect. DRW uses a variety of strategies to achieve its mission, including individual casework and systemic change. The organization increases its effectiveness by collaborating with other advocacy and service organizations. It receives funding from federal and state grants, as well as other funding streams. Donations help DRW push forward public policy improvements that make a difference for thousands across the state.
