

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CONTACT: Kathy Markeland, <u>kmarkeland@wafca.org</u>, 608.257.5939 September 6, 2019

WAFCA Welcomes New Associate Director Emily Coddington

This week the Wisconsin Association of Family & Children's Agencies (WAFCA) welcomed Emily Coddington to serve as WAFCA's new Associate Director.

WAFCA is a member association that works to improve the lives of families and children in Wisconsin. WAFCA's member agencies provide a wide array of prevention and supportive services such as foster care, in-home support, counseling, and mental health treatment. WAFCA represents over 50 child and family serving agencies and leaders in the field and advocates for the more than 250,000 individuals and families that they serve each year.

Emily comes to WAFCA with nearly 20 years of child welfare experience, including direct service, supervisory, and management roles. Emily's career has focused on supporting and advocating for children, youth, caregivers and parents, as well as those connected to the county, tribe, state and non-profit workforce. For the past 5 years, Emily served as a Section Chief with the Department of Children and Families – first, with the Child Welfare Licensing Section and most recently with the Bureau of Youth Services. Emily also spent several years working on behalf of the non-profit sector and a county human services agency. Emily obtained her Bachelor's in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and her Master's in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"Emily is passionate about partnering with others to improve policies, services, and outcomes for children and families," shared WAFCA Executive Director Kathy Markeland. "She brings a wealth of expertise and a commitment to collaboration that will be true assets to our Association as we continue to promote best practice, innovation and impact in Wisconsin's human services."

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