

## **For Immediate Release**

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### ***CIAD Announces Leadership Transition***

The Board of Directors of the Coalition of Institutionalized Aged and Disabled – CIAD – has announced the retirement of our long-time and well-loved Executive Director, Geoff Lieberman. The mission and promise of CIAD has been Geoff’s lifelong career. Originally hired to serve as the nursing home organizer in 1983, he became the organization’s second Executive Director, following in the steps of Vic Rosenthal. As Executive Director for the past forty-one years, Geoff has been a relentless advocate and passionate promoter of the rights and independence of adults living in adult homes and care facilities. His achievements with and on behalf of our constituency have been many, including:

- A multi-year housing campaign following Cliff Levy’s Pulitzer Prize winning series leading up to the historic O’Toole Settlement and beyond, that included:
  - The First Annual Adult Home Resident Speak Out in Albany in 2004 which continues to this day as a forum in which resident educate legislators and regulators.
  - People’s Waiting List in 2007.
- The successful campaign to air-condition resident rooms beginning in 2005.
- The EQUAL grant program, including the efforts to save its funding in 2024.
- Responding to the plight of the more than 1,000 adult home residents who were evacuated during or affected by Hurricane Sandy.
- Reporting the true impact of the COVID pandemic on residents and positioning CIAD to continue to serve residents through remote communication when all access to residents was shut down.
- CIAD’s signature resources and projects: The Adult Home Resident Council Tool Kit, The Independence Training Project, and our Taking Control Guidebook which are used across New York State and throughout the country.

For the past forty-one years, Geoff’s patience, compassion and wisdom have guided the staff and resident leaders of the Coalition and helped to empower many to take on leadership in the sector firmly rooting CIAD as a consumer lead organization. Board President Robert Rosenberg offered: “I’ve been with CIAD since 2013, working with Geoff and getting to know him. He is a great leader and a great friend. While I am happy for him to be able to retire, I

will miss him. I don't know where I would be without him and CIAD." The Board and Staff are grateful for the dedicated service Geoff has given and for the genius he has demonstrated in navigating the ever-changing landscape of adult homes in New York City.

After a comprehensive search process, the Board has selected our new Executive Director is Theresa Young, MSW, MPA.

Ms. Young is a lifelong New Yorker who has worked in nonprofit and government organizations serving low-income communities for over 30 years. She has an extensive knowledge of the New York City social services landscape in housing, homelessness, domestic violence, education, and social justice issues with a clear grasp of their intersection with poverty. With a Master of Social Work from Hunter College, A nonprofit Management certificate from Columbia University and a Master of Public Administration from Baruch College Theresa's education and experience will enrich the work of the Coalition. Ms. Young is grounded in the empowerment model at the core of CIAD's mission and values bringing an array of talents to enrich both our day-to-day work with residents of adult care facilities and to impact the policies and regulatory issues that impact their lives.

Outgoing Executive Director Geoff Lieberman reflected *"CIAD is very fortunate to have Theresa assume the reins of CIAD. She brings years of dedication and leadership in service to the marginalized and underserved and is committed to continuing CIAD's mission to empower and protect the adult home resident constituency we serve."*

Board President Robert Rosenberg said: *"I'm looking forward to working with Theresa Young as our new Executive Director. I know that working as a team we will accomplish even more for our residents. CIAD's future will bring new ways to help Adult Home Residents to have a better life."*

Having been called on to lead new initiatives throughout her career, the Board of Directors are pleased to welcome Theresa Young to lead CIAD into its next dynamic chapter.



*Geoff Lieberman, outgoing Executive Director of CIAD*



*Theresa Young, incoming Executive Director of CIAD*

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