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Ann O'Hara, Associate Director

Technical Assistance Collaborative names new Executive Director *TAC respected nationally for expertise in supportive housing and human services*

BOSTON - A nationally recognized leader and pioneer in public mental health, substance abuse and community-based supportive housing was named today as the new Executive Director of the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC), a nonprofit organization known for its expertise in affordable, supportive housing and human service systems.

Kevin Martone brings 20 years' experience and extensive achievement in the development of public behavioral health systems and permanent supportive housing opportunities for vulnerable individuals and families. Before joining TAC as a senior consultant in 2011, Martone helped transform New Jersey's mental health system and also headed a nationwide policy development organization.

"Throughout his distinguished career, he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to a full life in the community for people with disabilities, and has the vision and leadership skills that will benefit both TAC and people with disabilities in the future. Speaking for TAC's board, I am thrilled that Kevin has accepted the position of Executive Director," TAC Board of Directors Chairwoman Carolyn Lukensmeyer said. "Kevin has extensive knowledge and successful experience in both public human services and innovative approaches to permanent supportive housing consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision."

TAC is a national, non-profit leader in providing consultation, technical assistance, and training on proven solutions to the housing and supportive services needs of people with disabilities, including people who are homeless and people living in restrictive institutional settings. TAC works at both the service delivery and systems levels to improve the quantity and quality of housing and services needed by people with disabilities to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency in the community.

Martone was Deputy Commissioner of Human Services in New Jersey, where he managed a \$1.5 billion budget and led the state-wide systemic transformation of public behavioral health services, resulting in more community-based supportive housing and major hospital census decreases. He also served as Board President for the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD), helping to develop and set mental health policy throughout the country. He previously served as President and CEO of Advance Housing, Inc., an innovative nonprofit that pioneered New Jersey's efforts to expand integrated community-based supportive housing for people with mental illness and other disabilities.

“I have always looked to TAC, even in the early days of my career, as a leader in shaping policy and helping government design and implement affordable housing and human services strategies that work for people,” Martone said.

NASMHPD Executive Director Bob Glover called Martone “a powerful force for reform in public mental health and human services.”

“He understands federal and state policy issues, and he knows how to design, finance and implement best practice services, including permanent housing linked with services in the community for people with disabilities,” Glover said. “At the same time, he has never lost touch with the consumers and families whose participation and voice is so important to the success of public systems of care.”

Martone replaces TAC founder and longtime Executive Director Steve Day. “TAC has had outstanding leadership over its 21 years of existence,” Lukensmeyer said. “TAC co-founders Steve Day and Ann O’Hara have maintained the highest standards of performance and ethics throughout TAC’s history. Under their leadership TAC became a highly respected national organization recognized for its expertise in affordable and permanent supportive housing, and human services, particularly Medicaid and state-funded mental health and substance use services,” she said. “We know that Kevin will maintain these very high standards and will assure TAC’s continued leadership on these issues at the national, state and local level.”

“I look forward to carrying on Steve’s legacy and maintaining TAC at the forefront of shaping affordable housing, health and human services policy and programs throughout the country,” stated Martone.

TAC’s leadership change comes at a time when government agencies simultaneously implement the Affordable Care Act and face austere budgeting due to the slow growth in the economy. According to Mr. Martone, “The delivery and financing of services will evolve in this new environment, and it is important for policy makers to receive sound guidance in order to make good decisions.”

Mr. Martone’s appointment became effective today. Mr. Day will assume a Senior Consultant position at TAC and Ms. O’Hara will continue her role as TAC’s Associate Director.