



Sonia Noorman Joins the West Michigan Partnership for Children

Division Director from Wellspring Lutheran Services brings 20 years of foster care experience to oversee operations of new performance-based model in Kent County, MI.

The West Michigan Partnership for Children (WMPC) is pleased to announce that Sonia Noorman will be joining as its Chief Operating Officer. The WMPC is a new organization that will provide foster care services to children and families in Kent County, in partnership with Bethany Christian Services, Catholic Charities of West Michigan, D.A. Blodgett—St. Johns, Samaritas, and Wellspring Lutheran Services. Noorman will lead the daily programmatic operations of the WMPC while ensuring close collaboration with these partner agencies.

Noorman comes to the WMPC from Wellspring Lutheran Services where she served as the Division Director for Wellspring's five foster care programs in Michigan. In this role, Noorman increased Wellspring's statewide budget for foster care by 20 percent, and grew its Grand Rapids foster care program from five to 39 staff. Noorman recently completed a results-based leadership course offered by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Noorman has an M.S. in Human Development and Family Studies, an M.S.W. from the University of Illinois, and a B.A. in psychology from Calvin College.

"Sonia has committed her professional career to serving children and families. She's developed a strong team of leaders, and her nearly 20 years will leave a lasting impact on Wellspring," said Dave Gehm, Chief Executive Officer of Wellspring Lutheran Services. "There is no question in my mind that Kent County needs her, and that the WMPC is where she needs to be."

Over the past four years, Noorman has closely collaborated with key stakeholders that have orchestrated WMPC's inception, assuming a leadership role to develop many of the WMPC's draft policies, procedures, and processes.

"Sonia has a reputation in Kent County for being an excellent collaborative partner, and her expertise in foster care program development and implementation is invaluable to the WMPC," said Kristyn Peck, Chief Executive Officer of the WMPC. "Most importantly, Sonia has a strong personal commitment to improving the lives of children and families. She is a fantastic addition to our new and growing team."

On October 1, 2017, the WMPC will pilot a performance-based foster care contract, utilizing a case rate that incentivizes permanency while allowing for flexibility and creativity in funds. The WMPC seeks to empower and strengthen families to improve outcomes for children.