

Bridgewell Appoints Kelly Martin as CEO and President



Kelly Martin

September 15, 2017 — Bridgewell, a nonprofit based in Peabody that supports individuals with developmental and psychiatric disabilities, this week announced that it has named Kelly J. Martin as its chief executive officer and president.

Kelly served as CEO for the last 10 months on an interim basis and was elected president in the spring. She succeeds Robert S. Stearns who held the post for 13 years

“After a thorough and comprehensive process, the board is thrilled to announce that Kelly will continue in the role as CEO and President of Bridgewell,” said Robin Sutherland, board chair of [Bridgewell](#). “She has demonstrated over the last several months, along with her longstanding tenure, the qualities, skills and competencies needed to be successful as Bridgewell’s CEO.”

The organization noted that “she has excelled and advanced in a variety of direct care, management and leadership roles up to chief operations officer and interim CEO where she reshaped programming to expand services in both autism support and substance use disorder treatments in response to the growing need.”

Martin, who has more than 30 years of experience at Bridgewell, has been involved with strategic planning and implementation, expansion of services, and quality improvement and outcomes management systems. She was instrumental in achieving the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) across all programs and services, the highest level of accreditation that can be given to an organization.

“I joined Bridgewell over 30 years ago because I wanted to be a part of an organization that empowers people with life challenges to live dignified, self-directed, satisfying, safe and productive lives,” said Martin. “I am honored to lead Bridgewell, as it prepares to celebrate its 60th anniversary next year, into its next phase while maintaining the highest quality of care and services.”

Martin earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in social work from Suffolk University and earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Salem State College. She is a surveyor for CARF, a member of the Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers board of directors and a former board member for Children’s Friend and Family Services.

Established in 1958, Bridgewell today serves more than 6,250 individuals and their families annually through 100 programs offered in 23 communities in eastern Massachusetts. With nearly 1,400 employees, Bridgewell’s provides residential services, day habilitation, behavioral health services, employment training, transitional homeless services, affordable housing, and substance abuse and addiction services.

Bridgewell relocated its headquarters in June from Lynn to Peabody, which enabled it to centralize operations, including administration, training, program management, and human resources.

For the year ending June 30, 2015, Bridgewell reported \$60.2 million in revenue, of which \$659,000 came from contributions and grants, and \$59.9 million in expenses, according to its most recently available federal tax filing.