



#### Board Members

**Jennifer Putnam**

Executive Director, Waypoint  
Board President

**Bill Shanahan**

Co-Founder & Senior Advisor, Evernorth  
Board Treasurer

**Gunnar Hubbard**

FAIA, LEED Fellow, Climate-Forward  
Catalyst for the AEC Industry  
Board Secretary

**David Birkhahn**

Vice President, TD Bank

**Elizabeth Boepple**

Partner, Murray, Plumb, & Murray

**Cheryl Harkins**

Advocate, Homeless Voices for Justice

**Ninette Irabaruta**

Senior Director, Community Engagement  
& Outreach United Way of Southern ME

**Chip Newell**

Principal, The NewHeight Group

**Luc Nya**

Mental Health Program Coordinator  
OCFS/Corrections Liaison, Maine DHHS

**Angela Perkins**

Westbrook Resident

**Thomas Ptacek**

Advocate, Portland Resident

**Jennifer Rottmann**

Deputy Director/CFO, The Genesis Fund

**John Ryan**

Co-Founder and Board Chair,  
Wright-Ryan Construction

**Aaron Shapiro**

Retired Community Development  
Director, Cumberland County

**Kimberly Twitchell**

Senior Director of Affordable Housing,  
NBT Bank

**Staff Contacts****Cullen Ryan**

Executive Director

**Samantha Messick**

Operations Director

**Vickey Merrill**

Advocacy Director

**Chris Harmon**

Finance Director

**Jenny Jimino**

Office Manager

**Bree LaCasse**

Development Director

**Brian Kilgallen**

Development Officer

**Sarah Gaba**

Asset Management Director

**Meredith Smith**

Supportive Housing Manager

**Sarah Derosier**

Asset Manager

**Sam Lowry**

Compliance Manager

February 4, 2025

Re: LD 51 An Act to Increase Oversight of Fatalities of and Serious Injuries to Adults Subject to Public Guardianship

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, my name is Cullen Ryan, and I am the Executive Director of Community Housing of Maine or CHOM. I am also the parent of a 28-year-old son with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (ID/DD). I serve as Chair of the Maine Coalition for Housing and Quality Services, a coalition of some 4000 people, consisting primarily of parents, that focuses on housing and quality services for people with ID/DD. I also serve as chair of the Maine Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board (MDSOAB).

I am testifying in support of LD 51, An Act to Increase Oversight of Fatalities of and Serious Injuries to Adults Subject to Public Guardianship. *Under current law, the Aging and Disability Mortality Review Panel reviews deaths of and serious injuries to adults receiving services in home-based and community-based services programs, including participants in those programs who are subject to public guardianship. This bill expands the charge of the panel to review all deaths of and serious injuries to adults subject to public guardianship, whether or not they are enrolled in homebased and community-based services programs. It also amends the membership of the panel.*

The original establishment of the Mortality Review Panel was wise and timely. The Mortality Review Panel plays a critical role by reviewing deaths and identifying systemic changes which might have made a difference for the people who unfortunately passed in order to help prevent future instances or serious injury or death. I am pleased to see that Governor Mills is invested in enhancing and expanding this essential panel through this legislation.

This bill includes important improvements to the Mortality Review Panel, including expanding the population scope to include adults under Public Guardianship. This bill would also add to the existing panel, proposing a statutory change to include a medical provider, a representative from Adult Protective Services, and a person with lived experience. All of these additions would serve to improve the effectiveness of the Mortality Review Panel.

Please pass LD 51 so that Maine's Mortality Review Panel can be best poised to review and identify instances of serious injury or death so that Maine is better equipped to prevent them in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.