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Mary Kay Rizzolo Will Lead CQL As The New President & CEO

Townson, MD: CQL | The Council on Quality and Leadership announced today that its Board of Directors has selected Mary Kay Rizzolo, Ph.D. as President and Chief Executive Officer effective January 19th, 2016. Ms. Rizzolo comes to CQL with decades of expertise in improving the quality of life and quality of supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health diagnoses and older adults.

“Her qualifications and contributions to the field make her the perfect fit for CQL’s mission, vision and values,” says Bill Beattie, CQL Board Chairperson. “Mary Kay’s stellar reputation is exemplified in more than 20 years of experience in diverse leadership roles, operational management, budget oversight, quality metrics, strategic planning and product development.”

Most recently, Ms. Rizzolo has served as the Associate Director of the Institute on Disability and Human Development (IDHD) at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Clinical Associate Professor for their Department of Disability and Human Development. She has also been a Policy Mentor for the Illinois Leadership and Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Program, Director of Evaluation for the Family Support Research and Training Center, and a member of the State of the States in Developmental Disabilities Project. In addition, Mary Kay is the author of more than 50 book chapters, journal articles and reports, and is considered a national expert on long-term services and supports.

“I’m honored to lead this highly-respected international organization to consistently set the bar in person-centeredness for human services,” says Rizzolo. “We will continue to develop cutting-edge approaches, and establish best practices that put innovative ideas into action.”

“There is no one more suited for this position,” says Cathy Ficker Terrill, retiring President and CEO of CQL. “Mary Kay will strengthen CQL’s focus on the identification, achievement and measurement of individual outcomes, through her creative outlook and bold leadership.”

[CQL | The Council on Quality and Leadership](http://www.C-Q-L.org) is dedicated to the definition, measurement and improvement of personal quality of life for people receiving human services and supports, by providing training, accreditation and consultation.

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