

August 2, 2024

Dear Team,

I am delighted to share the exciting news that Darlene Ryan has accepted the full-time position of Senior Director of Finance at Ongwanada. Darlene will officially begin her role on August 6, 2024. With over 40 years of experience in the developmental sector, serving as CFO in various organizations in the South East Region, Darlene brings a wealth of financial and leadership expertise that will be invaluable to Ongwanada.

Darlene will play a pivotal role in further enhancing our internal control processes, policies, capacity building, and operational budgets for the upcoming fiscal year 2024-2025. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the finance team for their resilience and adaptability during the recent transitions. Your dedication and sense of purpose are truly commendable and will undoubtedly propel Ongwanada stronger than ever.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to Matt Luck for his unwavering support over the past 9 months, guiding the finance team through this transition period and providing mentorship to both Paige and Neil. Matt has graciously agreed to extend his support for the next 3 months.

In a short period of time, Dina Eleslambouly and Lorrie Heffernan have seamlessly integrated themselves into their roles, demonstrating a commitment to learning, engaging with staff, and understanding the intricacies of our organization. We have collectively taken note of the feedback received and are actively implementing solutions to support our staff and the individuals we serve. Our focused efforts on enhancing our clinical services have enabled us to attract top-tier clinical staff to Ongwanada, aligning with the ministry's mandate for 2024-2025.

I have personally witnessed the respect earned from our community partner agencies beyond the South East Region, a testament to the confidence instilled by our current leadership team in upholding our mission and our role as an accountable transfer payment agency.

I want to acknowledge and commend our front-line staff and management team for your unwavering commitment to supporting our individuals. Your resilience and support are truly valued as we continue to move forward in alignment with our mission and values.

With heartfelt appreciation,
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Dr. Lak Chinta
CEO Ongwanada