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Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders (ABOARD) Appoints New Executive Director

Luciana Randall will lead ABOARD in providing assistance and advocacy to families in Pennsylvania affected by autism.

Pittsburgh, PA. The Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders (ABOARD) of Pennsylvania has appointed Luciana Randall as its new Executive Director. Ms. Randall will lead ABOARD in its mission of “maximizing the potential and possibilities of children, adolescents and adults affected by autism in Pennsylvania.”

Luciana (Lu) Randall has extensive experience working with the autism community and leading non-profit organizations. Previously, she was project director for the Autism Society of Pittsburgh, where she provided counseling, facilitated support groups, conducted advocacy, and led a number of initiatives including a new “aging with autism” program. Ms. Randall also held a management role with Keystone Autism Information Systems and has provided instruction to hospitals, universities and school districts on autism and mental health treatment.

Ms. Randall’s leadership experience includes directing an adult day care program in Philadelphia which she started by authoring a grant proposal and developed into a center that provided support for 25 adults daily. She also co-founded the Spectrum Charter School in Monroeville, PA: she co-authored the planning grant for the Pennsylvania Department of Education and secured ensuing grants from private foundations. She was the recipient of the 2010 Patty Verostko Child Advocacy Award at the “Get Involved! Pittsburgh” Service Summit which recognized leaders in the service community in Western Pennsylvania.

Ms. Randall has Master’s Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Wright State University and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Art Education from SUNY College at Buffalo.

“Lu Randall is passionate about helping individuals with disabilities, particularly those affected by autism”, said Elliot Frank, Chairman of the Board of ABOARD. “We are excited to have Lu join our team and take ABOARD to the next level as we expand our support of the autism community.”

“I feel privileged to be able to work with the dynamic team at ABOARD, whose work I have admired for years,” said Ms. Randall. “Their understanding, positive attitude and depth of knowledge is conveyed to the many families and professionals who call for help with autism’s challenges. I am confident that together we will strengthen and increase this outreach, and we will collaborate with other leading organizations to ensure we are all successful.”

ABOARD was founded as a non-profit advocacy organization in 1995. Through its Family Support Services, 55 support groups in 46 Pennsylvania counties are supported by ABOARD. ABOARD’s Information Services disseminates comprehensive information packets to families of

newly diagnosed children with autism, staffs a toll-free hotline, and maintains an up to date website. The most current information pertaining to autism is available through the lending library of over 800 publications, a quarterly newsletter, and an informational weekly e-mail. More information, can be found at: www.ABOARD.org