

UCS News Release

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UCS Appoints New Board Members

Bennington and Manchester, Vt. — United Counseling Service has appointed two new board members to oversee operations of the community mental health and developmental services agency for Bennington County.

“I’m delighted to welcome Angela Arbolino and Jim Mirenda to the UCS board,” Executive Director Ralph Provenza said. “They are knowledgeable, energetic, and highly respected community leaders.”

Angela Arbolino, of East Dorset, is vice president and principal owner of Finn & Stone insurance company in Manchester. She established the life and health insurance department for the company and manages hundreds of accounts for the firm as well as the human resources functions throughout the business. She has two-and-a-half decades of experience in the insurance industry and is a registered underwriter and employee benefits consultant.

“UCS sets high standards in providing community-based care and is very well managed,” Arbolino said. “As the health care system undergoes changes, I’m interested in promoting more mental health care in Bennington County.”

Active in the community, Arbolino is also a board member of Manchester Health Services, treasurer of the Zion Episcopal Church in Manchester Center, and served on the fundraising committee for the Mark Skinner Library. A runner and cyclist, she has competed in several triathlons and half marathons.

“Angela’s expertise will be helpful as UCS negotiates changes in the insurance industry to maximize revenue while offering the best possible benefits to our staff,” Provenza said.

Mr. Mirenda, also of East Dorset, is a Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch in Manchester Center. Jim earned an MBA from Cornell University before moving to Vermont and has been in financial management for more than fifteen years. Part of his advisory practice is committed to working with families facing special health needs. Jim and his wife Holly, a health literacy consultant, are the parents of two young children.

“I am thankful to live in a state that advocates for a healthy community where neighbors help neighbors,” Mirenda said, describing how he values the environment for raising his family. “Dollars spent on mental health care and developmental services provide high returns for the entire community,” Mirenda said. “The benefit can be measured in terms of more productive lives and savings in other areas, such as medical emergencies and corrections.”

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Among his many passions are fly fishing and hiking, as well as raising awareness of blood and bone marrow donation.

“Jim’s financial experience will be a benefit as we work to weather the difficult economic times and maintain the agency’s financial strength,” Provenza said.

UCS serves children, adults, families, and seniors through nationally recognized counseling, early care and education, and clinical support. Visit www.ucsvt.org to find out more.

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