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Governor Sherrill Appoints Lisa Montalbano as Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

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TRENTON – Governor Mikie Sherrill today announced the appointment of Lisa Montalbano to serve as Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their Families. Montalbano will lead the Office of the IDDO dedicated to helping individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families navigate New Jersey's systems of care and access State resources that facilitate independence and dignity.

"I am thrilled to appoint Lisa Montalbano to serve as Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Lisa brings more than two decades of experience connecting individuals with disabilities and their families with opportunities. I am confident that under her leadership, this Office will serve as an invaluable resource in ensuring New Jersey residents can connect with the State's diverse array of supports and services," **said Governor Sherrill**.

"I am honored to be appointed to serve as New Jersey's Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities," **said Lisa Montalbano**. "I look forward to partnering with the Governor to ensure New Jerseyans with intellectual and developmental disabilities can access the tools and resources to thrive."

Pursuant to [P.L. 2017, c. 269](#), the Ombudsperson's roles include serving as a source of information for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their families; supporting navigation of the process for obtaining services and supports from the Department of Human Services and the Department of Children and Families; educating and acting neutrally and objectively to support dispute resolutions; and identifying patterns of complaints and relevant improvement strategies.

Montalbano served as the Chief Executive Officer of Employment Horizons, a non-profit focused on employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. During this time, she cultivated relationships across the IDD community, including especially with families throughout the state.

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