

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Voices for Children Appoints David Bialis as Interim CEO *Sharon M. Lawrence Steps Down after 20 Years*

**(October 2, 2017) San Diego, CA** — David A. Bialis has been appointed Interim CEO of [Voices for Children](#) (VFC), effective October 2, 2017, announced Jill Skrezyna, Chair of the Board of Directors. Sharon M. Lawrence, Esq., served as VFC's President & CEO for twenty years, and has resigned to become CEO of the California CASA Association, effective November 1, 2017.

David Bialis served over 30 years with Cox, most recently as senior vice president and general manager of Cox Communications California from 2011 until his retirement in 2017. A resident of Solana Beach, Bialis has extensive community service and leadership experience, serving on the boards of the United Way of Central Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. His local board service includes the La Jolla Playhouse, the Midway Foundation, and Ocean Discovery Institute. Bialis first joined the Board of Directors of Voices for Children in 2012, serving as Chairman of the Board from 2014 to 2016. He resigned his board position to assume the Interim CEO role.

Board Chair Jill Skrezyna said, "The Board is pleased and grateful that Dave is willing to step forward during our transition. With his exceptional corporate leadership skills, he will continue the organization's outstanding work while we conduct a national search for our new President & CEO. Over the past two decades Sharon has done a tremendous job building a nonprofit organization second to none. We look forward to our next chapter, and thank Dave for his willingness to take on this new role in the interim." Sharon became VFC's President & CEO in 1997, growing the organization from just \$400,000 to its current annual budget of over \$6 million, and placing VFC within the top 3 of all 960 CASA programs in the nation. In her new role as the CEO of the California CASA Association, [www.californiacasa.org](http://www.californiacasa.org), Sharon will oversee technical assistance, training, and quality assurance programs for all 45 CASA programs across the state.

A national CEO search is underway, conducted by [Blair Search Partners](#) of San Diego. The posting is available at <http://blairsearchpartners.com/voices-for-children/>.

### ABOUT VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Founded in 1980, Voices for Children (VFC) transforms the lives of abused, neglected, and abandoned children in foster care in San Diego and Riverside Counties by providing them with trained volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs). CASA volunteers advocate for a foster child or sibling group in Court, school, and in the community to ensure their needs are met. VFC believes that every child deserves a safe and permanent home, striving to provide a CASA volunteer to every child in the foster care system who needs one. Last year, VFC CASAs and staff advocated on behalf of more than 3,400 foster children across San Diego and Riverside Counties. For more information, visit [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.org).

David Bialis  
*Interim CEO*

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