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August 18, 2025

Via of the Lehigh Valley and Via Foundation Announce Leadership Transitions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Via is proud to recognize the dedicated service of two long-standing leaders as they retire from their roles: **Jerry Somers**, Chairman of the Via Board of Directors, and **Brian Cook**, Chairman of the Via Foundation Board of Directors.

Jerry Somers has been a steadfast advocate for Via's mission, providing strategic leadership and unwavering support throughout his 16-year tenure. His guidance has helped shape the organization's growth and impact in the Lehigh Valley. **Michael Keller**, currently Marketing Manager at Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. in Allentown, PA, will succeed Jerry as chairman of the Via Board of Directors. Michael brings a strong background in communications and community engagement to the role.

Brian Cook, who joined the Via Foundation Board of Directors in 2012, is also stepping down after 13 years of service. With a distinguished background in finance, most recently serving as Senior Vice President and Lehigh Valley Market President of People's Security Bank & Trust, Brian brought invaluable expertise and vision to the Foundation's work.

Via is pleased to announce that **Jeremy Sestito**, Director of Global Accounting at OraSure Technologies, will assume the role of chairman of the Via Foundation Board. Jeremy brings a strong financial background and a passion for community service that will continue to advance the Foundation's mission.

"Via extends our deepest gratitude to Jerry and Brian for their many years of service. We are excited to welcome Mike and Jeremy into these leadership roles," said Via President & CEO Lisa Walkiewicz. "Their expertise and passion for our mission will be invaluable as we look to the future."

About Via of the Lehigh Valley

Serving our community since 1952, Via's mission is to help people reach their full potential through a rewarding career, meaningful relationships, and an enriching community life. Via creates pathways to success through vocation, inclusion, and advocacy. Led by 2023 Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year Award winner, Lisa Walkiewicz, President and CEO, Via was named a Top Workplace in 2023, 2024 and 2025 by The Morning Call.

In a typical year, Via provides services to 1,000 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon, Monroe, Bucks, and Berks counties. These services include vocational exploration, community employment, educational activities, volunteer and

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Via's Mission: Helping the people we serve reach their full potential.

The official registration and financial information of Via of the Lehigh Valley, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



recreational opportunities for teens and adults, early intervention therapies, and inclusive education for young children. Visit www.ViaNet.org to learn more.

About Via Foundation

Via Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting the mission of Via of the Lehigh Valley. The Foundation provides vital resources to grow and sustain services that empower individuals with disabilities to live more independent and fulfilling lives.

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