



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Jessica Trimble, 317-719-3944, jtrimble@indianadisabilityrights.org

November 15, 2019

**INDIANA DISABILITY RIGHTS NAMES MELISSA KEYES
AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Protection & Advocacy System (IPAS) Commission, the governing authority for Indiana Disability Rights (IDR), has named Melissa Keyes as the executive director.

“We are thrilled and fortunate to have an individual of Melissa Keyes’ caliber and experience in the role of executive director for IDR. The Commission strongly believes in her ability to lead and fulfill the mission of the agency,” states Amber O’Haver, IPAS Commission Chair. “She understands the importance of being an authentic disability ally and why that is critical in creating systemic change and challenging the status quo about how we are perceived in our communities.”

“The IDR team has worked hard to become a recognized leader in advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities and I am excited for the opportunity to keep moving Indiana Disability Rights forward,” says Keyes.

Melissa received her law degree from the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis. She was the Editor-in-Chief for the *Indiana Health Law Review*, Volume 8, and was selected as the 2010 Program on Law and State Government Fellow. During law school, Melissa served as a research and policy consultant to the Autism Society of Indiana. Before becoming an attorney, Melissa worked at Riley Hospital for Children in the autism clinic as a research specialist at which time she earned her Master’s degree in clinical psychology. Melissa has a particular interest in advocating for options to support decision-making in adulthood. She represented Jamie Beck in becoming the first person in Indiana to have a guardianship terminated in favor of supported decision-making and regularly speaks on the subject both locally and nationally. She has served as the Legal Director for IDR since 2014.

###

Indiana Disability Rights (IDR) is the designated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) System and Client Assistance Program (CAP) for the State of Indiana. The mission of Indiana Disability Rights is to protect and promote the rights of individuals with disabilities through empowerment and advocacy. For more information, visit www.IndianaDisabilityRights.org.