



## OPRA Board of Director Election Ballot

### District 7

Serving Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Erie, Geauga, Huron, Lake and Lorain Counties

In accordance with OPRA's Code of Regulations, votes are being requested from current OPRA Members for OPRA District 7. This representative will fill an open seat with a term ending December 31, 2022. Any/all nominees are listed below. The individual selected will have all the rights and responsibilities of an OPRA District Director as outlined in the Code of Regulations, and will address the issues of OPRA Provider Members.

**One (1) Director is to be elected. Please vote for one (1) candidate.**

Tamara Honkala  
HELP Foundation, Inc.

Beth Lucas  
UCP of Greater Cleveland

John Schwartz  
CLI Incorporated

**Ballots must be returned to OPRA via postal mail by  
Friday, November 5, 2021 to:**

**Sonya Summers, Member Communications Manager**

Ohio Provider Resource Association

1152 Goodale Blvd.

Columbus, OH 43212

[ssummers@opra.org](mailto:ssummers@opra.org)

(614) 224-6772

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Signature of Individual Voting

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Organization

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Date

## Meet Your District 7 Candidates

(All candidates are listed in alphabetical order by last name)

### **Tamara Honkala – President & Chief Executive Officer, HELP Foundation, Inc.**



Tamara S. Honkala is the President and CEO of HELP Foundation, Inc. Ms. Honkala has devoted her entire professional career, now spanning 34 years, working to improve the quality of care and services offered to those who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Her journey with HELP Foundation began as an unpaid Social Work Intern, from Cleveland State University, in the late 1980's. That chance placement transcended into a progressive professional career that has changed the face of HELP by ensuring its exponential growth and fiscal health.

From an unpaid intern to a direct support professional to a site leader, Ms. Honkala was continuously promoted because of her unique leadership style, zealous advocacy, and track record of success. Highlights of her career path at HELP include Program Manager, Chief Program Officer, Chief Operating Officer, and eventually President and CEO in 2016.

Ms. Honkala is the Immediate Past Chair of the Euclid Chamber of Commerce, active OPRA member and current Secretary of the Cuyahoga County Board of DD Provider Consortium Board. In addition to her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work from Cleveland State University, she holds a certificate from Harvard University in Business Management.

Ms. Honkala resides in Mentor with her husband of 32 years, Daniel. They have a son who is a Euclid Police Officer and a daughter who is a sophomore at Bowling Green State University.

### **Beth Lucas – President & Chief Executive Officer, UCP of Greater Cleveland**



Beth Lucas, newly named President and CEO of UCP of Greater Cleveland effective 1/1/22, has served as UCP's Chief Operations Officer since 2014 after joining the agency in 2008 as its Director of Development. She has spent her entire career in the nonprofit sector, first specializing in fundraising and marketing. Beth's passion for DD program development and sustainability drove her to pursue the operational and administrative sides of the agency where she will be responsible for a budget of \$10M and a staff of 160, including a significant number of direct support employees as well as professional staff. She will oversee UCP's various programs with multiple funding sources including ICF homes, community integration, day services as well as children's therapy and educational programming.

Beth has a Master of Arts in Nonprofit Administration from John Carroll University and a Bachelor of Arts from Baldwin Wallace University. She is a graduate of the National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities Leadership Academy and engages in advocacy, outreach and fundraising efforts for UCP as well as various health-related groups.

## John Schwartz – Chief Executive Officer, CLI Incorporated



My vocational experience is pretty diverse. I paid my way through undergrad (back when it was way cheaper) working in restaurants & bars, dropping out for a year midway through. After graduation, I worked as a residential DSP at Sunshine Children’s Home before a grad assistant gig, which combined with a summer sailing instructor job, paid enough for rent & beer money for the next 2 years. After graduation I worked first as a Habilitation Specialist, and later as a Case Manager for the Ottawa County Board of DD. I next worked for the Erie-Ottawa ADAMHS Board in a short-lived grant-funded program that hoped to prevent adjudicated out-of-home residential placements of at-risk youth. I was then picked up by the Huron County Board of DD to start a community recreation program. After a couple of years of that, I moved to a M-F day shift as Adult Services Director there, where I stayed for the next 15 years prior to privatization. When CLI expanded its service to become a

DODD provider, CLI hired me as CEO.

What I bring to the table is a clear recognition that we are sorting out a completely new context. We must adjust our sails to the apparent wind that surrounds the boat we are in right now—and be mindful of the shifts around us. This is an exciting time to be in our field. Providers collectively have some real power to improve things for the people we serve, the employees we lead and the communities within which we work. I think it’s important to be honest and transparent. Only by acknowledging conflicts can we work toward sustainable solutions. I would welcome the opportunity to represent district 7 on the OPRA Board. If you choose me, I promise to be diligent, transparent, and accessible as I work within OPRA to champion our shared objectives.