

On behalf of the Starting Point Family, I'm writing today to share that Billie Osborne-Fears—our celebrated, much-loved, much-admired Executive Director—passed away Friday, September 4 after a short illness.

Under her direction, Starting Point became one of the most effective child-centered organizations in the nation, drawing the admiration of national, state, and local officials who regularly called on Billie and the Starting Point team to help with child care initiatives.

Thanks to Billie's leadership, Starting Point has one of the most comprehensive networks of child care and early education services in the country. She leaves Starting Point with a talented hard-working staff poised to carry on her work without missing a step. The millions of children and families who have benefited from her work are her lasting legacy.

The Board of Directors has appointed Debbie Fodge as interim Executive Director. Debbie has worked with Billie for 30 years and helped grow Starting Point to what it is today. There is no better individual to lead Starting Point through this transition. The Board of Directors will commence a search for a permanent Executive Director in the coming weeks.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Adam Munson
Board President