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CONTACT: Nicole Joy Hales, PRfirst, 781-871-7280, nhales@prfirst.com

Sheri Adlin of South Shore Stars Presents at Recent MADCA Conference

WORCESTER and WEYMOUTH, MA, ISSUED DECEMBER 4, 2019...Sheri Adlin, executive director of South Shore Stars (<http://www.southshorestars.org/>), a nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive early education and youth programs through a family-support approach and which has served as a resource for working parents on the South Shore since 1970, recently presented at the Massachusetts Association of Early Education & School Age Providers (MADCA) 17th Annual Management and Administration Conference, held November 28 in Worcester.

Adlin, with Elaine O'Reilly of Government Strategies, led a workshop entitled, "Making Their Voices Count: Working with Your Community to Promote Advocacy Efforts." Through their presentation, they emphasized that while there is power in numbers, especially with regard to advocacy, it is often challenging to harness this power in the field of early education and care. Adlin and O'Reilly presented clear, tried and true strategies for engaging employees, parents, and board members to be informed and vocal advocates with their governmental representatives.

For the last 25 years, Adlin has been an integral part of South Shore Stars. Under her leadership, the nonprofit has grown to serve over 1,200 children annually, from birth through high school, with a focus on offering a continuum of early education and youth programs concentrating on school readiness, academic achievement, and the healthy development of families. Four goals inspire the focus of South Shore Stars—to enable parents to work; to help children reach their full developmental potential; to facilitate positive youth development; and to improve academic achievement for students at-risk of academic failure. Programs include a family childcare system, an Early Head Start initiative, preschool centers, after school programs, a middle school program and high school program, and a summer camp. Due to the nonprofit's commitment to quality, affordable, year-round care for low-income families and at-risk children, the growth of South Shore Stars has been closely tied to public policies and government funding for early education and anti-poverty programs.

In addition to her work with South Shore Stars, Adlin served as vice president of MADCA for two decades. Last year, Adlin was presented with the first annual Douglas Baird Lifetime Achievement Award for service in support of the early education field and for the protection of children.

"The MADCA Conference is always a great experience, and I really enjoyed working with Elaine to help participants encourage advocacy within their communities," said Adlin. "It's wonderful to learn about others' efforts and challenges, and work together to help offer strategies and solutions."

About South Shore Stars

South Shore Stars is a not-for-profit organization that has been a resource for working parents on the South Shore since 1970. The organization's two interconnected goals are to enable parents to work, and support each child to thrive. Stars' mission is to provide comprehensive early education and youth programs through a family-support approach. They strive to enhance the development of children from

economically and culturally diverse families through collaboration with parents, schools, and local communities.

South Shore Stars has embraced and nurtured thousands of South Shore families and children since their first center-based pre-school childcare center located in Quincy center. Today, they annually serve over 1,200 children and youth age newborn through 18 years in a family child care system, Early Head Start, preschool centers, school age centers, middle school programs, a high school program, and summer camp, throughout the communities of Braintree (family child care system only), Holbrook (Early Head Start and family child care system only), Quincy, Randolph, Weymouth, and Westwood (summer camp) and surrounding cities and towns. Stars' core goals are to enable parents to work, help each child reach their full development potential, improve academic achievement for students at-risk of academic failure and facilitate positive youth development. Stars recognizes the importance of supporting and partnering with parents for children to be the best versions of themselves.

South Shore Stars' main office is located at 200 Middle Street, East Weymouth, MA. For more information, please call 781-331-8505 or visit www.southshorestars.org.