

**Berkshire Leadership Program
2017 Community Service Session – Speaker Bios**

1. Erica Girgenti – Council on Aging

Erica Girgenti has been the Director of the Adams Council on Aging since 2010. Prior to her employment with the Town of Adams, she was employed with the Brien Center for Mental Health & Substance abuse as a Social Worker, Supervisor and Activity Director and with the North Adams Regional Hospital's acute locked psychiatric facility, as a psych therapist and Crisis Prevention & Non-Violent Restraint trainer.

Currently, Erica serves as the co-chair of the Regional Coordination Council on Transportation in Berkshire County, a task force member for the Age Friendly Berkshires, Board of Directors for Senior Housing at the Barrett House in Adams, Advisory Board for the Massachusetts Council on Aging, Board of Directors at the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, and a local Adams Town Meeting Member. In previous years she sat on the Advisory Board for Elder Services of Berkshire County. She has a drive to increase opportunities within her community, within the area of but not limited to, transportation options through public, private, walkability and bike-ability, increased opportunities to healthier food options, age-friendly initiatives, and increased services for older adults.

Erica has a graduate degree in the School of Public Service Leadership, masters in human services, specialization in gerontology and an undergraduate degree in Social Work. She is a 2015 graduate of the Berkshire Leadership Program; a recipient of Berkshire Magazine's Berkshire 25 in 2015 and received Berkshire Community College's 40 Under Forty recognition in 2016. Erica lives in Adams with her family and enjoys to travel.

2. Shannon McCarthy – Berkshire Health Systems

Sharon has worked in the substance abuse field for the past 15 years. She is the Director of the Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Units at Berkshire Medical Center. Shannon is a(n) licensed as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor (LADC) and received her training at UMASS Boston. She has obtained her BSW through Elms College and is currently enrolled to complete my Masters at the University of Louisville in Social Work (completion expected in May 2018)

3. Becca Bradburd – Elizabeth Freeman Center

Becca Bradburd is Director of Operations and Communications at Elizabeth Freeman Center (EFC), where she coordinates program development, outreach, data systems, and development, as well as emerging programs in LGBTQ access and financial independence. Prior to joining EFC, Becca worked for social justice in a variety of other domains, including gender and LGBTQ equality, educational access for low-income youth, income fairness, and democratic governance. Becca holds an M.A. in Political Science from University of California, Berkeley and a B.A. in Political Science and Comparative Literature from Brown University. She is currently building a wooden canoe on the weekends.

1 BERKSHIRE

BERKSHIRE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

COMMUNITY SERVICE SESSION
Wednesday, April 12, 2017
5:30 - 9:30PM

Adams Visitor Center
Adams, MA

Session Coordinators
Amanda Bankowski & Jillian St. John

Session Objective: Present opportunities to volunteer, introduce class to places where they can get involved, and to reinforce the importance of involvement in community service organizations.

5:30 PM	Arrive at the Adams Visitor Center
5:35 – 5:40 PM	WELCOME
5:40 – 6:30 PM	DINNER: <i>provided by Bounti Fare Catering</i> Sponsored by Adams Community Bank
6:30 – 6:50 PM	Guest Speaker Remarks Erica Girgenti – Council on Aging
6:50 – 7:10 PM	Guest Speaker Remarks Shannon McCarthy – Berkshire Health Systems
7:10 – 7:30 PM	Guest Speaker Remarks Becca Bradburd – Elizabeth Freeman Center
7:30 – 7:45 PM	BREAK
7:45 – 9:00 PM	BREAKOUT SESSION “Community Service Speed Chat” – timed session, each participant will go from person to person (speed dating style), giving them an opportunity to ask questions about the organization or how they can get involved.
9:00 PM	CLOSING REMARKS
Next Session:	Wednesday, April 19, 2017, 5:30 - 9:30PM at Blue Q, Pittsfield