

BOLD TYPES

Rachel Kaprielian to succeed Coleman Nee as CEO of Malden nonprofit

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By [Jon Chesto](#) Globe Staff, Updated September 16, 2024, 1 hour ago



Rachel Kaprielian is taking over as chief executive of Triangle Inc., a Malden-based nonprofit that provides disability services and housing for more than 2,400 people a year. CHRIS MORRIS

When she was state labor secretary, **Rachel Kaprielian** spent much of her time helping connect employers with the workers they needed.

Now, with her latest gig, Kaprielian will be on that mission again, only this time it will be specifically about finding opportunities for students and adults with disabilities.

Next week, Kaprielian takes over for **Coleman Nee** as chief executive of **Triangle Inc.**, a Malden-based nonprofit that provides disability services and housing for more than 2,400 people a year.

Kaprielian worked with Nee in **Deval Patrick's** administration — she was Patrick's registrar of motor vehicles and then labor secretary, while he was Patrick's secretary of veterans' services. After leaving her state role, Kaprielian was appointed regional director for the US Department of Health and Human Services. Most recently, she worked as a director for government relations at **McDonald's**; she left McDonald's in August after nearly eight years there. As a member of Triangle's board, she's already quite familiar with the nonprofit, which gets much of its \$13 million annual budget from state contracts.

Attitudes have changed about workers with disabilities since business leaders launched Triangle five decades ago. But Kaprielian said Triangle and its 175-person staff can do more to show how its clients can help employers faced with workforce shortages, including with career specialists who can help clients with people with applications, interviews, and on-the-job coaching. "I really want to see more employers take more advantage of what we can do," she said.

Kaprielian got her start in politics with a successful run for the Watertown City Council at the age of 22, in the mid-1990s. After two terms on the council, she served in the state House of Representatives before Patrick picked her for the registrar's job.

From her perspective, her new role at Triangle marks a continuation of that focus on public service and advocacy. "In a lot of ways," she added, "my whole career has set me up to really take this and run with it."