Associate director to be new executive

Change at Susan B. Anthony Project as Barbara Siegel retires on June 17

BY BRUNO MATARAZZO JR., REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

TORRINGTON — Jeanne Fusco started as a part-time employee for the Susan B. Anthony Project in 1995 and next month she will be its executive director.

The board of directors unanimously tapped Fusco, associate director, to replace Barbara Spiegel, who is retiring next month after 20 years as the organization's leader.

The decision comes following a nationwide search that brought in 60 applicants, said Nanette Falkenberg, the board's vice president and the chairwoman of the search committee.

"We found that out of all of these applicants, Jeanne had the strongest set of skills," Falkenberg said. "When you add her knowledge of the issues and her knowledge of the community, we felt she was the strongest choice."

Falkenberg said of the 60 applicants, about 10 were interviewed.

Fusco, 56, will take over after Spiegel's last day on June 17. She will oversee a management team of five people, a staff of 25 and more than 100 volunteers. The nonprofit has a budget of $1.7 million. After taking over, Fusco said she hopes to meet with staff and domestic violence survivors as well as stakeholders in the community, to develop goals and services for clients.

The nonprofit has grown considerably since it started in 1983 in the basement of Trinity Episcopal Church with one phone line and a small group of volunteers. Today, the organization provides services to 2,500 victims of domestic and sexual violence, and brings prevention education programs to