

Cen-Clear Child Services Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Gene Kephart, Executive Director of Cen-Clear Child Services, Inc. (CCS), announces that the agency is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. CCS was incorporated in 1980 as a private non-profit corporation to provide the Head Start program in Centre and Clearfield Counties. The agency mission statement is: *“We are an organization dedicated to leading our community with superior quality and innovative services to children and families by providing physical, social, emotional, educational and leadership development.”* CCS operates on the philosophy of *“Reaching Children Through Families.”*

During its 30-year history, the agency has developed new programs and services in response to unmet needs identified for children and families. Today, the agency is comprised of three primary divisions, employs over 560 persons, and services are provided in all or portions of seven counties. Annually, CCS serves more than 3,300 children and over 1,700 families from 33 sites across the service area.

The *Early Childhood Division* includes Head Start (both state and federal funding), Early Head Start, Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts, Early Intervention, Family Centers, Promoting Responsible Fatherhood, Time-Limited Family Reunification, and the Parent-Child Home Program. The agency also collaborates with Central Intermediate Unit #10 to provide integrated and inclusive classrooms for children with disabilities.

The *Behavioral Health Division* provides a Children’s Outpatient Mental Health Clinic, Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (including wrap-around and therapeutic staff support), Psychological Services, Functional Family Therapy, Family Based Mental Health, the Family Unity Program, the Maintaining Strengths Program, and a Certified Peer Specialist Program. CCS also provides Drug and Alcohol outpatient and intensive outpatient services.

The *Community Services Division* includes afterschool programs at the middle and high schools of all eight Clearfield County school districts, a Children’s Activity Program (including therapeutic recreation and independent living services), delinquency prevention services, and related programs and services.

Early in its history, CCS adopted a strong collaborative approach to program development and service delivery. In order to comprehensively serve children and families, we have developed close working relationships with other community based organizations, school districts, and county agencies.

CCS is governed by a volunteer board of directors consisting of thirteen individuals who are representative of local communities.

According to Mr. Kephart, "Cen-Clear is extremely proud of the work we do on behalf of children and families. At the same time, we recognize that our successes have only been possible due to the support we received from local communities, partner agencies, and many volunteers. During our 30th anniversary year, we celebrate their accomplishments as well."

More information about the programs and services of Cen-Clear Child Services, Inc. is available by calling 342-5678 or on the agency website at www.cenclear.org.

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